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THE INDEPENDENT

3,082

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 1996

WEATHER Generally fine except for the south-east

40p (IR 45p)

US abandoned us, say Kurds

Pro-Saddam leader
expresses bitterness
after bombing

By Hugh Pope

Salahuddin — The leader of the Kurdish group which has allied itself with President Saddam Hussein, angrily criticised the United States' missile attack on southern Iraq yesterday, and said that he had asked for Baghdad's support only because the US had abandoned the Kurds.

Masoud Barzani, whose Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces have been fighting alongside Saddam Hussein's forces in northern Iraq, said that his organisation had no choice but to side with Baghdad.

The KDP called on Saddam

'If iniquity were the trigger for air attacks, then the B-52s would be carpet-bombing the Middle East for weeks'

— Robert Fisk
page 9

The missile strikes are an expression of frustration and impotence'

— Patrick Cockburn
page 12

for help, he said, in response to a threat of an alliance between their rivals in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Iran. Mr Barzani said he appealed not only to the US but to Britain, France, Germany, Turkey and regional states when they felt that the PUK was getting Iranian rocket and artillery support in a series of attacks and incursions since late July.

The US launched missile attacks on southern Iraq yesterday to punish Baghdad for Saddam Hussein's armoured attacks in

Kurdistan. But Mr Barzani said that the missile attack was "just part of President Bill Clinton's election campaign".

Looking tense and tired after a weekend in which his forces collaborated with Baghdad to capture the Iraqi Kurdish capital of Arbil, Mr Barzani said that his faction had become impatient with empty US promises to assist Kurdish autonomy. "We are angry with America. For two years the Americans have been playing with us," he told a news conference at his hilltop headquarters at Salahuddin, just outside Arbil.

The US launched missile attacks on military targets in southern Iraq in response to Baghdad's moves to evict the PUK from Arbil. Jalal Talabani, the PUK leader, told Reuters news agency yesterday that Iraqi troops and tanks were still deployed in the region. Mr Talabani's party had held Arbil since 1994, when an uneasy Kurdish alliance collapsed in fighting.

KDP officials say that the only Western diplomat who visits them with any regularity is the much-liked Frank Baker from the British Embassy in Ankara in Turkey. High-powered American diplomats dropped by infrequently, made threats and left soon afterwards, making little lasting impact, they said.

Allied officers in a small monitoring base close to the Turkish border rarely venture more than a few kilometres any more they said, and due to Turkish pressure have virtually no political contact with the Iraqi Kurdish leadership.

"We felt our existence was threatened. There was no response to our appeal. We also wrote to the regional leaders and to the President of the Iraqi republic. Then there certainly

was a response to our appeal." The response from Baghdad was Iraqi armour and artillery support for their joint attack on Arbil on Saturday. The new atmosphere is symbolised by what travellers from Arbil said were two flags flying side-by-side over the city's landmark castle: that of the KDP and that of Iraq.

The situation in Arbil was said to be tense yesterday, and the KDP still forbade foreign journalists to visit it because they said they were still hunting down armed PUK fighters. A few people could be found leaving the city, but KDP checkpoints were not allowing any mass exodus.

The fighting on Saturday was quickly over. The KDP says that it lost seven Peshmarga guerrillas, while Tareq, a 25-year-old KDP fighter, said he saw 60 PUK Peshmarga bodies in a hospital courtyard. He said the first line of fighters were the KDP's main trained regiment and added that about half of the Iraqi units with them belonged to the Iranian opposition group,

the Mujahideen-e Khalq. Few Iraqis went further than the parliament building on the ring road, he said.

The KDP officially says that all the Iraqis are now out of the city. It says it arrested some 2,000 PUK members, including the former prime minister Fawaz Masoud, and had already released 1,500 of them. The party said that its men were still searching for Hero Talabani, the wife of the PUK leader, who was in Arbil at the time of the attack.

"I'm quite frightened," said Ronaq Rafiq Jawfiq, a 25-year-old schoolteacher who had left Arbil to stay with relatives in Salahuddin. "There is still the sound of shooting at night."

The PUK, having retreated rapidly from Arbil, immediately cut all electricity supplies to the city. This is having severe repercussions on the supply of water for its one million people. At his hilltop headquarters, Barzani said no formal talks

had opened on the future relations of the KDP with Saddam Hussein. But, he noted, Saddam was still the President of Iraq.

"We have not separated from the rest of Iraq. We love our Kurdish flag but also there is a central flag," Mr Barzani said. "If Iraq is ready to recognise the rights of the Kurdish people, if the Iraqis can meet our demands, we can make an agreement."

The change of sentiment has struck a chord among many of the Kurds ruled by Mr Barzani's KDP, which now controls two of the three provinces of Iraqi Kurdistan. Worn down by five years of deprivation, blockade, internal fighting and fading Western interest, Iraqi Kurds are more and more ready to discuss getting back together with the Iraqi central government.

"The dream of an independent Kurdistan is gone," Mohsen, an Iraqi Kurdish teacher, said. "There were many who believed in it a few years ago, but now, after these wars, people are much more realistic."

The American attack on Iraq

■ The United States fired 27 cruise missiles in response to Iraqi attacks on the Kurds. The missiles were fired from B-52 bombers and warships in the Gulf at military targets in southern Iraq.

■ "Our objectives are limited but clear," said President Bill Clinton. "To make Saddam pay a price for the latest act of brutality, reducing his ability to threaten his neighbours and America's interests."

■ US Defence Secretary William Perry said Iraq posed a "clear and present danger" to neighbouring countries.

■ The US extended a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, and said that a United Nations plan to allow Iraq to sell oil to buy food could not proceed.

■ Iraq said five people were killed and 19 wounded. President Saddam Hussein urged his air force to attack allied planes.

■ Russia hit out at the US, saying the strikes were launched to help Mr Clinton win November's presidential elections.

■ "The United States has our full support," John Major said, "and I hope and believe others will support them as well."

■ Britain said that it had allowed US planes to refuel at American-operated facilities on the British island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

■ Oil prices surged, but then fell back with Brent crude hitting a post-Gulf war high of \$23.50 (£15.00) a barrel, slipping back to \$22.04.



Record haul of rhino horn is seized

MICHAEL STREETER

The world's largest haul of illegally held rhinoceros horn was seized in London yesterday in what was heralded as a major breakthrough in combating the international poaching trade in endangered species.

The discovery of 105 white and black rhino horns worth £2.8m in crates in lock-up news garages in Kensington followed a joint undercover operation between officers from the South East Regional Crime Squad and the RSPCA.

An RSPCA official de-

scribed the discovery as "absolutely fantastic".

Two men and two women, all from the Cambridge area, were arrested as part of Operation Morello, shortly after 2pm yesterday. One of the women was released without charge last night.

Experts believe the horns are from rhinos in Southern Africa, though many of them may have been stockpiled over a period of more than a year.

It is thought that London was being used as a staging post for the horns — with the market likely to be the Far East and

Middle East. The largest horn was valued at £96,000.

The RSPCA's chief inspector, Terry Spamer, said: "The white rhinos we found today represent more than 1 per cent of the entire world population of white rhinos and there is enormous cruelty involved in the poaching of these animals. This would have flooded the UK market."

Roy Clark, regional coordinator of the South East Regional Crime Squad, added: "This is an excellent example of good co-operation between agencies."

A spokeswoman for the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) — which has recently had two of the rhinos that it supports killed by poachers — said: "This is obviously a breakthrough in the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife which threatens many species, including the rhinos, with extinction."

In addition to its use as a supposed aphrodisiac, ground rhino horn is used in many Chinese communities for medicinal purposes. The horns are also valued as dagger handles in Middle East countries like

Yemen where they are known as jambiyyas.

According to the WWF, the black rhinoceros population has dropped to just over 2,400, with most of those that remain being found in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The white rhinoceros population is estimated at about 7,500 — with the vast majority in South Africa.

In recent years, the populations of both species have existed in mostly protected areas, leading to speculation that the current haul comes from previously poached stocks or even old trophies that may have languished on game hunters' walls for years.

A spokesman for the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) said it was studying the development.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment said the discovery was a good example of cross-agency partnership and added that the United Kingdom was committed to the protection of endangered species under the international convention.

Q: What's the difference between a politician and a psychopath? A: None

JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

Politicians and stockbrokers share many of the same characteristics as criminal psychopaths. The only difference is that career high-flyers usually stay within the law. Some could be defined as "successful psychopaths", according to Lisa Marshall, a psychologist at Glasgow's Caledonian University.

In a three-year research project that involved interviewing 105 long-term offenders in Scottish prisons, she discovered that upbringing appeared to be an important factor in whether a child became a psychopath, as well as genetic make-up.

To discover which offenders were psychopaths she questioned them and compared their answers to a widely used list of 20 characteristics of a psychopath. The annual confer-

ence of the British Psychological Society's criminological and legal division were told. To be considered a psychopath, they needed to display a number of the 20 core characteristics. Ms Marshall added that people in some high-powered careers, such as stockbroking and politics — she did not rule out journalists — had enough of the 20 characteristics to be defined as psychopaths.

She said: "Successful psy-

chopaths included people with careers such as stockbrokers, where a lot of actions was happening and where they had a lot of power. They have to be quite cold and callous. You could say a politician. [They] might be in control and have power. They are risk-takers. They have the characteristics of psychopaths but without the criminal intent."

She added that psychopaths made good fraudsters.

Of the sample of 105 inmates,

50 were psychopaths — including murderers and rapists — and the remainder were "normal" criminals.

By questioning them about their childhood and checking the answers with official records, she discovered that psychopaths had similar experiences when young. Her results showed that most of them had parents who disciplined their children poorly and were inconsistent in the way they treated them. For example, they would severely beat them for bunking off school on one day and laugh about it the next.

"The children never knew where they stood," said Ms Marshall.

Parents were often quite hostile towards their children who, in return, were negative about them. Neglect was also common. School was found to be a boring and bad experience for most psychopaths.

Is the person next to you a psychopath?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Tick as appropriate. □ Selfishness □ Callousness □ Remorseless use of others □ Pathological lying □ Glibness, conning □ Lack of remorse □ Shallowness □ Failure to accept responsibility for actions □ Extreme sense of self-worth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Chronically unstable □ Anti-social □ Socially deviant lifestyle □ Needs constant stimulation □ Parasitic lifestyle □ Childhood problems □ Juvenile delinquency □ Irresponsibility □ Unrealistic long-term goals □ Promiscuity |
|---|--|

QUICKLY

Mod homes row

Allegations of a lack of patriotism, sleaze and "Bury fat cats lining their pockets" were levelled at the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, when the MoD announced that the preferred bidder for its £1.6bn sale of married-quarters included Nomura, the Japanese bank.

Page 2

School tests at five

All five-year-olds will be tested during their first half-term at school from September 1998, under plans announced by the Government yesterday.

Page 4

The politicians' wives

Norma Major took to the road yesterday in what could be the opening shot of an alternative election campaign — a competition between the wives of the party leaders.

Page 3

Rugby split deepens

The England rugby union squad is to go ahead with training today, despite indications that many players would not turn up, amid a deepening row between clubs and the RFU.

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news

Major
mocks
Labour
'tartan
tax'ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

A revolt by English MPs could threaten the £8bn tartan levy - London's bill for Scottish public spending - if Labour sets up an Edinburgh parliament, John Major warned yesterday.

The Prime Minister told a Tory fundraising dinner in Glasgow that Labour's devolution plans could dismantle the Westminster Parliament, break up Britain, and "destroy democracy." But he also warned: "Overall public spending in Scotland exceeds the amount raised in Scotland by over £8bn. So why do people want to alter a system that so obviously works in Scotland's favour?"

Mr Major said it was unrealistic to think that English MPs would stand aside while a Scottish parliament cut taxes. "I have yet to hear how English MPs might be persuaded to continue spending more cash in Scotland than on their own constituencies, only to see it spent in subsidising tax cuts north of the border. It's a laughable proposition."

If English MPs proposed to cut Scottish spending, the Prime Minister went on, the Edinburgh parliament's tax-raising powers would only bring in £30m: a fraction of the £8bn current transfer. "Where would the shortfall come from?" Mr Major asked: "higher taxes or fewer public services?"

The Prime Minister also warned that Labour's plans on the social chapter and minimum wage threatened to open the "floodgates to a whole raft of expensive burdens to business."

But at a Labour conference for business in London today, Tony Blair and French colleagues will deliver strong reassurance about their intentions.

The Labour leader will tell an audience that includes representatives of more than 90 of the country's leading companies that the traditional relationship between business and the Tories is "unhealthy," and that Labour's links with business had improved and would improve still further.

Labour is this week sending out copies of a 28-page "business prospectus" of party policy to 10,000 business people, seeking to reassure them about its proposals in the teeth of "Tory scares" about the social chapter and minimum wage.

David Blunkett, Labour's education and employment spokesman, said last night that Labour would consult with business on the level of the minimum wage, and the implementation of existing social chapter directives.



Prickly subject: The illegal £2.8m cache of rhino horn seized by police working with the RSPCA in London yesterday

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Portillo under fire as MoD
homes buyer is announcedCHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, yesterday sparked a welter of allegations about lack of patriotism, sleaze and "Tory fat cats lining their pockets" when the MoD announced the preferred bidder for its £1.6bn married-quarters houses.

The winning Annington Homes consortium includes Nomura, the Japanese bank, Amec, the construction group which has made rich pickings from previous privatisations, and Royal Bank of Scotland, and Hamhros, two banks with close links with the Conservative Party.

Annington made no secret of its intention to profit from the deal. Sir Tommy Macpherson, the consortium chairman, said it would be seeking a stock market listing in "five to seven years."

He refused to be drawn on the expected size of the profit from the share sale, but, if past experience is anything to go by, it will be considerable and will provoke a political outcry.

The Independent yesterday revealed that Amec has made

over £30m from the resale of part of the Government's Property Services Agency.

Annington executives will now sit down with defence ministry officials to thrash out the final details on the housing sell-off. It is expected to see Annington agree to pay £1.6bn for

57,700 homes. The Ministry of Defence will lease back the bulk of the properties from Annington under a 200-year deal.

Some £100m will be released from the sale to upgrade those homes, while 2,700 of the empty quarters will be sold off immediately. More properties will

be sold over a 25-year period. Most immediate anger was directed at the involvement of Nomura. Arthur Titherington, secretary of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association, said: "I am almost speechless. It seems to me at times that certain senior mem-

bers of the Government have no feelings about the past. The Japanese are succeeding to do with money what they failed to do with arms. This decision is just another nail in the coffin of conscience."

In response to the criticism, Nomura had already taken a lower profile, and Sir Tommy was stressing yesterday that Annington is a British company with predominantly British shareholders.

Last year, Amec, chaired by Sir Alan Cockshaw, made profits of £16m - with Sir Alan's pay package soaring from £235,755 to £396,673. That was before the huge gain from the resale of the former PSA arm, Building and Property Management Services. At the same time, Amec is making inroads into other areas of Government business, recently winning the £150m contract to build offices for 13,000 civil servants in Newcastle.

In choosing Annington, though, Mr Portillo did at least avoid another backlash. If he had chosen another shortlisted bidder - a consortium involving John Beckwith, a Tory party fundraiser - the political row would have been enormous.

The Government spokesman rejected the charge that an excessive profit had been made: "The company that is being sold now is a very different company from that sold three years ago. It has new clients and the whole company has been restructured and streamlined."

The original sale agreement required the Government's approval if the company was to be resold within five years. A spokesman for the Department of

the Environment said: "We are content that the sale will not affect the services the company provides, and that the guarantees given to the Government will be upheld."

The company, now called Building and Property Management Services, manages buildings and building projects, mainly for the Ministry of Defence, including its main building in Whitehall.

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Brown queries sale 'scandal'

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, has asked the Commons Public Accounts Committee to investigate the privatisation of a property company which netted more than £70m profit for the consortium which bought it three years ago.

The deal, revealed by *The Independent* yesterday, earned £18m personally for Dr Wilem Frischmann, who led the consortium which bought the company, part of the Property Services Agency, which used to run Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and government buildings in Whitehall.

As Labour denounced the deal as a "scandal" which proved the company had been seriously undervalued, it emerged yesterday that the resale had been approved by John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The company was sold by the Government for £11.4m in 1993, and sold again 10 days ago for £84.6m. Dr Frischmann's group has so far paid only half a million pounds, with the remainder of the purchase price payable by the company's new owners, CVC Capital Partners.

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the Environment said: "We are content that the sale will not affect the services the company provides, and that the guarantees given to the Government will be upheld."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A global smoking ban for airline passengers moved a step closer yesterday when British Airways announced the extension of a non-smoking policy to almost all its flights. In response to customer pressure, from next year, an extra 350 flights a day to Africa, Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and North America will be designated non-smoking for a trial period, in addition to 750 existing smoke-free services.

The ban will cover all BA's transatlantic flights for the first time, including the Concorde service to New York costing £5,000 for a return ticket. Previously, 12 of the supersonic aircraft's 100 seats were for smokers. Travellers still wishing to smoke on a UK-US flight will have to switch from BA to one of the dwindling number of airlines on which it is still permitted. Virgin Atlantic banned smoking on flights to America last year. *Chris Goddard*

Maintaining an optimistic outlook on Sino-British relations over the future of Hong Kong, Jeremy Hanley, the foreign office minister responsible for the colony, said yesterday that the long wrangle over the attendance of the Governor, Chris Patten, at next year's ceremonies to mark the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule, had been resolved.

Following a meeting in Peking with Lu Ping, China's most senior official responsible for the territory's affairs, Mr Hanley said: "I had confirmation from Lu Ping that he is looking forward to shaking the governor's hand at the handover ceremony." However, Mr Lu himself gave no confirmation of Mr Hanley's remarks. *Steven Vines*

The family of Andrew Poynton, the Staffordshire University student murdered after his attempt to comfort a distressed young woman in Manchester, have spoken of his chivalrous and compassionate character. "He was just so perfect. Andy was the best of all of us," his sister, Deborah, said yesterday.

Mr Poynton, 20, who was returning from a party on Saturday night with his girlfriend, approached the woman only to be jumped by an abusive and violent youth. The attacker punched him and Mr Poynton fell to the ground, hitting his head as he landed. Mr Poynton never regained consciousness. Police are keen to speak to the young woman involved, and another woman with a Scottish accent, who telephoned for an ambulance, believing they held vital information about the assailant's identity. *Alex Sell*

A teenager who posed as a train driver and drove passengers at up to 100mph was given a community service sentence and put on probation. Nicholas Gray, 18, from Margate, Kent, had held on to his train driver's outfit after two weeks' work experience at London Bridge and Herne Hill stations expired.

For months, he sold tickets, acted as a platform attendant and a cleaner, magistrates were told at a previous hearing. The court heard Gray had lost count of the number of times he took the controls of packed high-speed trains and drove them at 100mph through the Kent countryside. He was so plausible that rail staff believed he was a trainee and helped "teach" him how to drive trains.

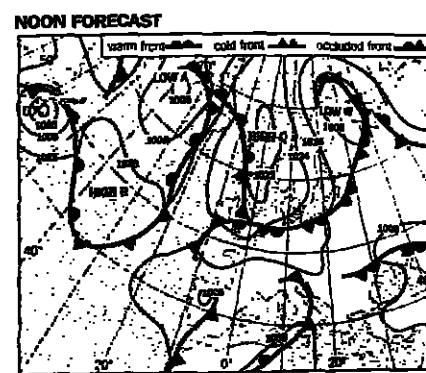
Ken Stewart, a Left-wing Labour MEP with links to the *Hoaxed Militant Tendency*, has died. Mr Stewart, 71, who had represented Merseyside West for the past 12 years, was born and raised in Liverpool and was decorated for service in the Second World War.

He served as a city councillor from 1964 to 1985 - a period culminating in the controversies of deputy leader Derek Hatton's reign and in the local authority's budget showdown with the Government. He leaves a wife, Margaret, one son and two daughters. Mr Stewart retained his seat in elections in June 1994 with a majority of 51,811.

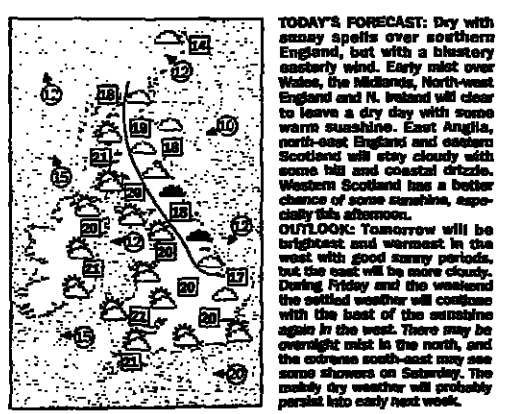
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Weather forecast



High 11 is slow-moving with little change in central pressure. Low 1 will track northwards, falling gradually.



TODAY'S FORECAST: Dry with sunny spells over southern England, but with a blustery southerly wind. Early rain over Wales, the Midlands, north-west England and it is likely to clear to leave a dry day with some sun and showers. East Angles, north-east England and eastern Scotland will stay cloudy with some rain and coastal drizzle. Western Scotland will have a better chance of some sun, but with a risk of rain. A cold front will move in from the west, bringing rain and strong winds. A cold front will move in from the west, bringing rain and strong winds. A cold front will move in from the west, bringing rain and strong winds.

WORLD WEATHER									
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news

Reborn viaduct spans the centuries

Lambley Viaduct, a masterpiece of Victorian engineering spanning the South Tyne, was opened to walkers yesterday after a £700,000 restoration.

Jim Cornell, executive director of the Railway Heritage Trust, acting on behalf of British Rail Property Board, handed over the viaduct to the North Pennines Heritage Trust, which will maintain it in perpetuity with a fund provided by the property board.

The 16-arched viaduct, which soars 110ft above the river, was opened in 1852 to bridge the last gap in the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway. It was closed in 1976 and was once considered for demolition. Its quality was recognised by English Heritage which upgraded its status to Grade II Star, allowing grant assistance to be offered.

The viaduct will be part of the South Tyne Trail being developed by Cumbria and Northumberland councils.



Get out and walk: The trains stopped long ago and it fell into disrepair. Yesterday Lambley Viaduct was opened to hikers after a £700,000 restoration

Photograph: Tom Finn

Schools to test all 5-year-olds in first term

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

All five-year-olds will be tested during their first half-term at school from September 1998, under plans announced by the Government yesterday.

The new "baseline assessments" will emphasise the three Rs and will be used to measure the effect of schools on children's progress, as well as to determine children's needs. Schools will also be encouraged to assess children's physical and emotional development: how they cope on a climbing frame, for example, and how they relate to each other and adults.

Tests for 7, 11 and 14-year-olds are already in place and the first performance tables for 11-year-olds will be published next spring.

At present, ministers have no plans to publish performance tables for five-year-olds. Parents

will be told their children's results confidentially.

One teachers' union accused the Government of overloading teachers, but another welcomed the decision to stop short of imposing the same national tests for all children entering school.

Instead, there will be national framework against which local assessment schemes will be judged. About half local authorities already assess five-year-olds. Both Labour and the Conservatives are committed to baseline testing.

Schools will be asked to join voluntary assessment schemes from September next year, and trials for the new framework will begin in 360 schools next week.

A national sample of children will be taken in 1998 so that ministers can assess national standards.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said:

What your child needs to know in the first year of primary school

Tick list of literacy and numeracy skills:

Reading
Holds books appropriately while turning pages and retelling story from memory.
Uses memory to match some spoken and written words.
Recognises letters by shape and sound.
Reads familiar words in a range of contexts.
Reads simple texts.

Writing
Uses symbols and letters.
Writes name with appropriate upper and lower case letters.
Hears sounds in words and writes corresponding letters in sequence.
Attempts to write sentences.
Attempts to spell unfamiliar words.

Maths
Creates own pattern.

Orders objects by size.
Matches similar objects to one another.
Counts objects accurately.
Identifies sequences.
Counts objects accurately.
Recognises numbers.
Writes numbers.
Adds and subtracts objects.
Solves addition and subtraction problems.

"In our drive to serve our children well and raise standards, it is essential that teachers and parents know what their children have already mastered and what their future learning needs are."

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said: "It won't be threatening. It isn't a formal test. It won't be a one-off. During the first half of term, the teacher will make assess-

ments as part of her normal work."

No local scheme will be approved unless it involves parents. Sir Ron said parents might be asked to say whether their children could write letters, count to 10, recognise single words, pull eight bricks out of a pile or draw a picture of a man.

The authority will consult parents and teachers about three alternative schemes for the national framework. One

involves only literacy and numeracy, another asks the teacher to match a child's performance to descriptions of skills, and a third requires teachers to write their own descriptions of what children can do.

Sir Ron acknowledged that the new tests would mean more work for teachers.

Mrs Shephard said: "At this stage we are not putting in place a national scheme of assessment but that remains a pos-

sibility should it prove to be desirable." Legislation to enable a national scheme to be created is planned.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers said:

"The education system is getting more like a public address system: testing, testing, testing. We think this is overloading the system. We should not mind if they were going to drop tests at

seven." The union would support members who refused to carry out the tests on workload grounds, he said.

But Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The Government has at last moved its attitude from if it moves test it. I welcome the introduction of baseline assessment which allows local education authorities and schools to develop their own accredited schemes."

Labour responded to the announcement by accusing the Government of stealing its clothes with a policy already being pioneered in many Labour-run local authorities.

Parents were celebrating yesterday after a 150-year-old village school reopened following a fundraising campaign which raised more than £40,000.

The campaign followed a decision last year by the local education authority to close the

school - which serves 14 pupils aged between four and eight - as part of a rationalisation programme involving 13 other schools in rural Warwickshire.

Parents, some of whose families had attended the school in Friars Marston, for five generations, fought the decision, and with the approval of the local church - which owned the building - they gathered the support of the local business community and began a campaign to save the school, and make it a non-fee paying independent institution, with charitable status.

The money raised is only enough to keep it open for a year but David Adams, chairman of the appeal fund, believes the village will ensure its future. New headteacher Brenda Edwards said she had been overwhelmed by people's generosity. "It is a lovely atmosphere here and I am privileged to be a part of it."

Editor accused of firing middle-aged men finds herself on the spike

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

The *Sunday Express*, one of the most famous newspapers in Fleet Street history, was yesterday effectively shut down by its owners. United News & Media, as part of a controversial restructuring aimed at introducing a seven-day operation taking in both the *Sunday Express* and the *Daily Express*.

The newspaper, founded by Lord Beaverbrook and boasting at its height a daily sale of more than 4 million, will be published as part of a combined editorial operation, at the cost of 85 jobs, although its owners insisted last night the two titles would keep their separate mastheads.

Sue Douglas, the editor of the *Sunday Express*, has been offered £375,000 to leave her job, as part of the across-the-board restructuring. Several senior *Sunday* staff have been offered positions in the new structure, but said last night they were likely to decline.

Ms Douglas herself controversially fired staff at the *Sunday Express* as part of a difficult and eventual nine months in the job, and was at the centre of a bitter industrial dispute about staff sackings. She was yesterday pushed aside by United News & Media, Lord Hollick's media group, on the advice of management consultants, who opted, said insiders, for a "safe pair of hands".

The restructuring will see Richard Addis, currently editor of the *Daily Express*, take on editorial management of both

titles. There are plans to introduce new magazines on Saturday and Sunday, a new Monday-Sunday sports supplement and an increase in regional coverage.

In a letter to staff, seen by *The Independent*, Mr Addis wrote: "The changes we're planning at the *Express* makes us the first national newspaper group to publish papers for the way people actually live today - rather than the way they used to live."

He added that the old distinctions between the daily and weekend markets were no longer useful, and that by combining the two titles, "we will try to avoid their weaknesses".

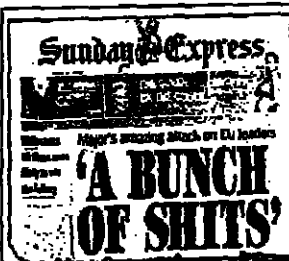
He said he intended to introduce 12 new departments, each with a head and a deputy head. News, pictures and sport will run on a daily cycle, while other parts of the paper, including features and analysis, will operate weekly - although not necessarily for *Sunday* publication.

The restructuring has left bitter feelings at the *Sunday Express*, where staff yesterday complained that no details were yet available about the anticipated sackings.

One senior *Sunday* journalist said: "They have put the f***wits in charge."

The animosity between the *Sunday* and the *Daily* staffs had been growing in recent months, as the consultants worked their way through the operation to identify likely savings.

One senior editorial manager told Stephen Grabiner, the *Express* group's managing director: "I am depressed that you



Pushed aside: Sue Douglas (top), who is to lose her job as *Sunday Express* editor; (above) front-page anger; and (right) Lord Hollick. Photograph (top): Tony Buckingham

have turned out to lack vision just like everybody else."

"I can't believe they have got rid of Douglas and not Addis," said another senior manager, who has also been offered a position in the new hierarchy.

The problems at the *Express* have been exacerbated by the

intense competition provided by the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, which dominate the mid-market. Yesterday's announcement was seen as a capitulation to the might of the *Mail*, and was seen by some as a prelude to the sale or even closure of the *Express* titles.

Charges of BSE cover-up investigated by Europe

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

The European Parliament began an inquiry yesterday into whether the European Commission deliberately stifled debate about the possible threat to human health from BSE in British cattle.

A 19-member committee has until 17 November to report on whether the commission and member-states kept the public fully informed.

Documents leaked on the eve of the inquiry purport to show that senior commission bureaucrats responsible for agricultural policy tried to restrict public awareness of BSE in order to prop up the European beef market.

According to the documents, which were passed to the Paris newspaper *Libération*, the chief

villain of the piece was Guy Legras, a Frenchman who has headed the commission's agriculture directorate for the past 11 years.

In one document, an unsigned fax dated 1 March 1993, Mr Legras is said to have written: "In my experience, all discussion of BSE inevitably causes problems in the meat market."

We have already had an alarm last January after a programme on German television, and it is only by dint of prudence and discretion that we have been able, for the moment, to avoid a panic... In order to keep the public reassured, it is essential that we ourselves do not provoke a reopening of the debate."

The fax was sent to Ricardo Perissich, the Italian head of the commission's internal-market directorate, who had requested an investigation into possible

links between BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human degenerative brain disorder. The reply attributed to Mr Legras raises the question of whether EU officials were placing a higher priority on defending the beef market than on protecting consumers.

Another leaked document, dated from 1990, indicates that participants at a meeting of the EU's Permanent Veterinary Committee advised the British Government not to publish the results of scientific research into BSE. A memorandum prepared by a French official in charge of consumer affairs, Gilbert Castille, referred bluntly to the need for "disinformation" to deflect the media's attention from BSE.

The commission's chief spokesman, Nikolaus van der Pae, did not deny the authenticity

of the documents but insisted that the commission had not arranged a cover-up. It would cooperate with the inquiry.

The inquiry must establish whether there was "maladministration" of EU laws by the commission or national governments. If that is the conclusion, some officials in the agricultural bureaucracy may come under pressure to resign. So far the commission President, Jacques Santer, is standing by Mr Legras.

The commission has never made a secret of the fact that one of its main concerns has been the protection of the beef market. However, since Britain's disclosure that BSE might be linked to the equivalent human disease, the commission has placed more emphasis on the need to eradicate BSE completely.

Envoy accused over child porn

JOJO MOYES

Customs officers doing a routine search of the belongings of a British diplomat uncovered 109 obscene videos, 70 of which contain scenes of "paedophile depravity", a court heard.

Robert Coghlan, who was a first secretary at the Tokyo embassy, is pleading not guilty to a charge of illegal importation of paedophile material. On the first day of his trial yesterday, Southwark Crown Court heard that in August last year Mr Coghlan, who is suspended from the Foreign Office, anticipated he was to be relocated.

At first it looked as though his destination was to be Britain but it was later decided he was to take up office in Madrid.

He was to leave Japan in October and before arriving in England was to go on a short tour, his goods in Tokyo to follow separately. The packers sent a customs form requesting details of the baggage. Mr Coghlan did not fill it in but completed a later form, writing

"none" against the space asking whether the baggage contained prohibited goods. "Unknown to the authorities at that time was the fact that amongst his personal belongings were 109 video cassettes of an obscene nature, of which 70 contained scenes of paedophilic depravity," said Nigel Lithman, for the prosecution.

The jury was asked to sit through a 90-minute sample, although this was later halved.

The videos and some stills, "homosexual" magazines and brochures were found during a search at an East London storage facility and Mr Coghlan was arrested in March this year. The court heard that in an interview he said he had not wanted the videos to come to Britain but to go directly to Madrid.

He said he was not interested in watching young kids, although he made quite clear that he recognised children in the videos were aged 12 or 13 and that he thought them rather young," Mr Lithman said.

The hearing continues today.

Bodies found in Dutroux garden

LOUISE JURY

The decomposing bodies of two adolescents were found yesterday in the grounds of a property owned by Marc Dutroux, the chief suspect in Belgium's child abuse and murder scandal.

Major Jean-Marie Boudin, the police spokesman, said: "We have discovered bodies, probably of a human nature." A source said they were in an advanced state of decomposition.

Fears had mounted that more bodies would be found since two were discovered in the garden of Dutroux's home in Sars-la-Buissière near Charleroi last month after the convicted paedophile led police to them.

The find came after two girls were rescued in good health from another property owned by Dutroux. He was released from jail four years ago after serving three of a 13-year sentence for raping underage girls.

Dutroux, who allegedly led the gang now facing kidnapping

and abuse charges, also admitted abducting An Marchal, 17, and Eefje Lambrecks, 19, a year ago.

Hopes had been high that they had survived, and their parents were encouraged to believe they might still be alive. But their whereabouts remains a mystery. A number of children have vanished in Belgium in recent years and remain unaccounted for.

As the speculation mounted, Superintendent John Bennett, who headed the British investigation into the Fred and Rosemary West killings in Gloucestershire, flew out to Belgium to advise the investigators, and specialist radar equipment, used in the Cromwell Street inquiry, was brought in to aid the digging.

Police have been digging around the property in Jumet, southern Belgium, for the past week. The bones were found beneath a shed in the garden.

Major Boudin emphasised that the police did not know the identity of the remains.

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news

Labour fights shy of union proposals

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

The Labour leadership distanced itself yesterday from proposals for far tighter regulation of the world of work and new rights to strike for unions, which have been drawn up by some of the most prominent figures on the centre-left outside Parliament.

The 350-page study calls for the freedom to stage industrial action – without a ballot in certain cases – and virtually unlimited licence to take sympathy action. Endorsed by a wide range of figures, most of whom are Labour Party members, the study, "Working Life", will no doubt be characterised by the Conservative Party as Labour's "hidden agenda".

David Blunkett, shadow employment secretary, effectively rubbished the document as a

Blunkett said party would not be responding to 'impossible demands'

"combination of detailed research on the one hand and wish list" on the other. Labour would not be responding to "impossible demands".

The Institute of Employment Rights, which published the report, was at pains to present the study as a discussion document – an attempt to set the agenda for debate – rather than a manifesto.

The most sensitive element of the study, endorsed by those on the left and right of the party, is the section dealing with unions.

The document says that unions should have the freedom to determine their own rules. Strike ballots should not be required by law where action is in response to the victimisation of a union official or a unilateral variation of working conditions by an employer. Workers would also be allowed to refuse to cross picket lines without a vote. The report says the framework for union law should be determined by International Labour Organisation conventions, which are too radical

from the Labour Party's point of view.

The study also calls for a national minimum wage based on the European Decency Threshold, which would currently give a rate higher than the £4.26 an hour being demanded by some unions.

Minimum employment terms should be enforced by statutory Sectoral Employment Commissions, which would have a responsibility to promote collective bargaining. The sectoral agreements would be enforceable through newly established labour courts.

"Working Life" concludes that "deregulation" of the labour market has failed to provide long-term economic security. A "reconstruction" of labour law was needed to establish minimum standards at work. Five principles should underpin such legislation: a quality of opportunity, social justice, workplace democracy, the protection of civil liberties and "fairness" at work.

The report argues that employment law should reach all workers, especially the most vulnerable, such as agency workers, homeworkers and casual employees. Working time should be regulated in accordance with European Union standards and there should be new initiatives to help workers with family responsibilities. The law on unfair dismissal should be strengthened so that people are more effectively protected.

Carolyn Jones, director of the institute, said the document amounted to the most comprehensive review of employment law in this country for the past 30 years. "If implemented these proposals would go a long way to rebuild democratic institutions and the people's rights and opportunities, using employment law as one of the vehicles for this purpose."

But Mr Blunkett wanted to put the policy suggestions firmly in their place. "In the course of any one week there are literally dozens of policy papers, resource findings and suggested revisions to the law which arrive on my desk. Some of them, like the curate's egg, are good in parts and offer food for thought."

He pointed out that Labour had produced its own proposals: "It will not be our intention to add to our proposals in the light of this or similar reports."

Mischievous sprite spreads confusion among the mortals



Comedy of tricks: Yung-biao Lin of the Ninagawa Company of Japan rehearsing as Puck in full make-up for the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which opens at the Mermaid Theatre in the City of London tonight and plays until 14 September
Photograph: Edward Sykes

Women's rugby, a lesbian season, Asian comedy - an average night on Channel 4

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

Women's rugby, a lesbian season, an Asian comedy, a sports magazine presented by children and a portrait of the Anglican church in crisis were yesterday unveiled by Channel 4 as evidence of its unique role in providing television for minorities.

It has been thrown on the defensive by claims that it may be sold, and criticism that it no longer fulfils its specialised remit. Channel 4's chief executive, Michael Grade, has also been attacked for competing head-on with ITV with imported entertainment shows such as *Friends*.

But John Willis, director of programmes, said as he launched the autumn schedule: "This is the perfect answer to what people have been saying about Channel 4's remit."

The remit is about creating a channel that can take risks and try new things. On every floor

of Channel 4, as well as coffee machines, there are commissioners who understand that the remit is the soul of the channel.

"It is not just worthwhile programmes – multicultural programmes, or gay programmes. It's trying new filmmakers, whether it's Danny

Boyle in *Trainspotting* or Nicholas Hytner in *The Madness of King George*, or writing talent which is starting to emerge."

Mr Willis cited his adventurous new game show *Wanted* as an example of innovation. In it the former KGB spy Oleg Gordievsky will offer advice to

competitors trying to escape capture in a hunt shown live weekly.

The channel will also show a series of quirky documentaries this autumn called *Women At Play*, including women's rugby team and a football team of women pensioners.

The arts line-up is led by Sir Simon Rattle's seven-hour exploration of 20th century orchestral music, while for the sixth year running Channel 4 will screen the Turner Prize award dinner.

The highlight of the autumn's drama is a three-part serial by

Paula Milne, writer of the *The Politician's Wife*. It stars Nigel Hawthorne as a heart surgeon who undergoes a personal crisis at the height of his career.

Hawthorne's triumph in the Oscar-winning feature film *The Madness of King George* will be given its British television premiere on Channel 4, along with *Backbeat*, *Vanya on 42nd Street* – Louis Malle's final film, *Ladybird Ladybird* by Ken Loach and the Asian comedy by Gurinder Chadha, *Bhaji On The Beach*.

The season features the actress Jane Horrocks in *Never Mind the Horrocks* offering spoofs of Jane Austen and a prissy 1950s children's TV presenter. Also coming is a second season of Dyke TV featuring a profile of the model Rachel Williams, who co-presented the *Girlie Show*, *Rookies*, the first sports magazine featuring children as reporters and a profile of Paul Gascoigne on Cutting Edge.



For all tastes: Channel 4's line-up includes Jane Horrocks, Nigel Hawthorne, Oleg Gordievsky and Paul Gascoigne

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Think tank tells Blair not to spend more on NHS

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

The United Kingdom can not only afford the NHS, it should not spend any more money on it, according to a report published yesterday by the left-of-centre think tank the Institute of Public Policy Research.

In an analysis as controversial as last year's drug industry-financed report *Healthcare 2000*, which argued that the NHS was in crisis and that new charges or a "core" service would have to be introduced, the IPPR study argues there is nothing fundamentally new in the gap between demand for health care and its supply – and that there is no greater need to ration care now than in 1948.

The system is not in crisis, the

study by academics at the Health Economics Research Unit at Aberdeen University, concludes.

New technologies will increase costs in some areas but save money in others. The projected increase in costs from the ageing population has been exaggerated, and there is little correlation between ageing and higher health costs. What matters is the health status of the elderly – which the Government can and should improve.

And rather than spend a greater share of the national wealth on the NHS, any extra resources might be better invested in housing and education, which are known to improve public health.

The report will provide comfort for Tony Blair, the Labour

leader, who has been arguing that a Labour government must ensure existing NHS resources are well spent before deciding whether there is a "funding gap" to plug. Its conclusions also challenge the view of those who believe the NHS cannot continue and that new forms of charging are inevitable.

The report's authors, Sarah Wordsworth, Cam Donaldson and Anthony Scott, say their findings do not remove the need to set priorities and ration health care to some degree. "Resources for health care are scarce, have always been scarce and always will be."

But the need to make choices about what and how much is provided, does not mean new charges or a reduced "core" service. Charges are both in-

equitable, hurting the least well off, and inflationary – they tend to generate extra and, at times, unnecessary treatment and investigation of patients who can afford to pay. Countries which have attempted to define core services – New Zealand, the Netherlands and the US state of Oregon – have found the exercise difficult. Extra real-term spending on the NHS should only be allowed where the costs plainly bring benefits, the report argues. The UK spends less on health care, and sometimes substantially less, than other developed countries. But there is no clear evidence that they achieve better health outcomes as a result.

Can We Afford the NHS? IPPR, 30-32 Southampton St, WC2E 7RA; £5.45.

Public tough on police rapists

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Police officers who rape should be jailed for longer than professional and working class offenders, a survey has found.

Research also revealed that many people continue to believe myths about rape, such as that women who wear short skirts, get drunk, and walk home late at night are more likely to be raped. Research shows, however, that most women are attacked by someone they know, during "date rapes" for example, and that assaults usually occur indoors.

In the study, presented to the conference of the British Psychological Society's crimino-

logical and legal division, a sample group of about 100 was given four scenarios in which a rape was carried out and asked to complete a questionnaire. The stories included a lorry driver attacking an unemployed mother, a police officer raping an accountant after an office party, a lecturer assaulting a student, and a homeless man raping a school cook.

The group believed the police officer should get the longest sentence, which ranged from seven years to life, and all members wanted longer jail terms than are given in court. The second most severe sentence went to the lorry driver, who threatened to kill his victim, followed by the lecturer and

the homeless person. The longest sentences were recommended for "respectable" rapists irrespective of the victims' "respectability". Few participants blamed the victims or stated that the attacks were "foreseeable".

An unexpected finding of the research, by Michelle Dolphin and Joanna Adler of the department of psychology at Kent University, was that a third of the 50 women in the sample questioned reported that they had been raped or sexually assaulted. The victims were less likely to subscribe to the rape stereotypes.

Military style regimes at American "boot camps" – recently imported to the British

penal system – fail to deter inmates from reoffending, the conference was told.

American research suggests the only positive effect on the offenders appears to be linked to rehabilitation programmes or intensive post-release supervision.

Britain's first boot camp for young offenders opened in July at Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institution in Warrington. Inmates aged between 18 and 21 will face intensive physical training and education.

Danielle Hudson, a forensic psychologist, in a review of published work on the "success" of boot camps, concluded that "there is no clear evidence of any beneficial effects resulting from a regime's military emphasis".

DAILY POEM

A Kind of Poetry

By Christopher Reid

The first empties his pockets and then builds towers of the different denominations to stand by his place at table while he chews.

The next daydreams of the death of an imagined relative, a solicitor's letter the spell which will change his life.

The third throws most of what he has at women and flighty horses.

The fourth retains in his nostrils briefly the faint, print smell of new notes out of the machine.

Number five never fails to consult the experts and the stargazers before attempting the timeliest transaction.

While six, poor six, who must beg for it, knows just which pitch is lucky and which is not.

Christopher Reid's *Expanded Universe*, published on Monday by Faber, is one of the most inventive poetry books of the year. Reid's method, "elegantly oblique" as one writer has described it, creates poems of dazzling imagery and whimsy, at the heart of which there is a rare modesty and warmth. He can be heard reading his poems at Voice Box on the South Bank, Wednesday 18 September at 7.30pm.

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The best days of your life, the worst of mine

Summer's over, the new term is about to begin. What are the nameless terrors lurking in the pit of your stomach, and why don't your children seem to share them?

There is something about the first day at school which demands spanking new shoes

BY SOPHIE RADICE

Why do I do it? I, who always laugh at the herd-like instincts of the French blocking the roads of the nation as they leave and return from their holidays on exactly the same day. And yet, here we are, once again in Brent Cross shopping centre on the run-up to the start of a new school year, grinning going from shoe shop to shoe shop while children weep and whine and mothers either shriek or go all glassy-eyed and retreat to that place in their head where mothers who don't shout go.

We could all have done this a couple of weeks ago, or indeed waited until next weekend or the weekend after that, but there is something about the first day of the new school term which demands absolutely spanking new shoes. Of course, their feet will have grown over the holidays, and, of course, most of us feel guilty about their having worn £1.99 jellies for the whole of the summer ("little feet are precious and growing bones must be supported" said a sign in one shoe-shop), but there is more to it than that.

I remember the ritual of going to buy shoes at John Lewis (who now give out bleepers at this pre-school rush so that parents can "shop at their leisure" to pass the two-hour wait) and my feelings of fresh optimism and excitement being bound up in walking into my playground and lining up for the first time in ages with fine new shoes. Much of that first day would be spent spitting and rubbing the shoes in an attempt to keep them nice and shiny.

I suspect all the mothers clutching alarmingly high-number tickets in Russell and Bromley's Kid store while a Disney film blares out from strategically placed television screens have similar memories. Like our own mothers at the beginning of the school year, we all want to do absolutely the right thing by our child, as if making them feel smart and confident for the first day will set the tone for the whole school year.

At this shoe store they have not only trainers with light-up heels and laces but also nice, round-toed, medically approved leather ones. Both are horribly expensive, and I have to admit that when I have been skint at other times of the year I have just got the right size from Safeways and pinched the front bit to make sure there is enough room when I put them on my kids' feet. I have even put second-hand sandals on to my children's feet, and sometimes they only wear wellies for weeks on end.

And guess what? They have been fine: they have not developed bunions, pigeon toes, flat feet or strange postures. If I told this to the specially trained fitting assistants who spend their lives on their knees measuring the length and width of children's feet and feeling and prodding for a perfect fit, I am afraid I would be asked to leave. In fact, it wouldn't be the first time. Once my (then two-year-old) daughter was so dismayed at not being able to get some glittery red Doc Martens in her size, that she slapped the shop assistant who told her the bad news. They asked me to come back when she was in "better spirits" and her brother and I slunk away embarrassed, with her screaming abuse over my shoulder.

The woman sitting next to me has daughter problems too. Her prematurely teenage 10-year-old is sneering at her mother's suggestions for school shoes, refusing to try on a pair of lace-ups that they have waited an hour for. The mother gets so desperate at the thought of going to another shop and waiting for another length of time that she caves in.

"Go on, choose anything you want so long as it's black. You know your school insists on black." Sulkily the girl finds a pair with as much of a heel as you are ever going to find in a children's



shoe shop and the assistant comes out of the store room to tell them that they don't have any in her size. "You could order them, madam," the young assistant offers helpfully. "But we need them now. She starts school on Wednesday, you see." The mother is nearly in tears, and as they leave her daughter appears to be smirking.

All around are similar scenes. Anyone who has only had experience of grown-up shoe shopping would be absolutely appalled at the chaos and publicly displayed emotions here. Children run about whacking each other while others just loiter around holding shoes that they have taken off the shelves. Mothers do not seem to have any sense of camaraderie, but view each other as annoying hindrances to getting the shoes that they want. Add to this a team of over-tired and increasingly surly assistants (and who can blame them, when you look at their customers?) and you get the picture.

When it is finally our turn, I have already promised my two all sorts of delicious bribes so they will desist from hurting each other while we are in the shop. They have both decided on their top four choices of shoe so that we will have something to fall back on if the shop does not have what they want.

Our nice young assistant admits that the pre-school days are "hell on earth" and that he feels like offering incentives for mothers to come back in a couple of days' time.

My children do not humiliate me this time. They both walk up and down when they are told to, so that the assistant can ask how they feel. Amazingly enough, it takes only 20 minutes for them both to be happily fitted into shoes that they are both so thrilled by that they sleep with them on their pillows.

Tomorrow - haircuts!

It's like a scene from Vermeer or Pieter de Hooch: Interior with Seamstress, School Uniform and Cash's Name Tapes. In the middle of the kitchen sits the children's nanny, laboriously sewing little white tags on to a bewildering succession of garments.

"Games skirt - black," she recites, like a drill sergeant checking off recruits. "Shorts - black cycling. Tights - black footless (footless?). Jogging trousers - black with white stripe. Leopard - black. Kilt - grey. Lab Coat..." I assume she is winding me up (what are they trying to turn my gorgeous daughter into? A gym-haunting, Amazonian boffin with a penchant for Scottish dancing?). But no, they're all genuine school requirements; all part of the severe, monochrome wardrobe in which my daughter Sophie will soon be festooned, emblazoned and be-knickered as she starts her first term at the Big School.

How had it come to this? The school is not a boarding school, Sophie will not be lost to her loving family, communicating only in tear-stained letters written between Practical Torture class and double-period Pagan Rituals. She will be home every evening. The school isn't far; she can practically walk there. Many of her friends from Junior School will be starting alongside her. She has met the new class teacher, who is "terribly nice". Mr Blunkett's proposed new strictures about enforced homework and mandatory bedtime will not affect the school

It all comes down to breaktime on the first day. You've got about 30 seconds to make an impression.

BY JOHN WALSH

since it is private. Everything will be fine. So why am I so nervous about this small step along the highway of my daughter's education?

It's partly because she is. As she circles the pile of name-tagged uniform, marvelling at its comprehensiveness ("What's the white apron for, Sophie?" I ask. "Cookery? Dusting?") She fixes me with a stern eye. "Carpentry, Dad," she says. "Just carpentry?"; two kinds of alarm are gradually stealing over her.

First, the fear that she won't do well. "I'm afraid of messing up the exams. I don't want to be put in with the thickies," she says. As if. And there's the other fear, equally irrational, that she won't have any friends, that she'll be ignored, disliked, picked on, teased, found wanting or made to feel unpopular in one of the thousand ways 11-year-old girls can suffer for not being exactly like their peers.

It all comes down to that moment at break-time on the first day, when you first walk out into the playground. It supposedly decides who will be your friends and who your enemies; who will be the leaders and who the led; who will be

style dictator and who style victim for the next few years, if not the rest of your life. "But sweetheart," I said. "You'll all be wearing school uniform. You won't be taking part in some trendiness contest. Nobody will be in pedal pushers or cargo pants or All Saints combat tops, or belly chains or hair extensions or blue-sparkly nail varnish or..."

"Daddy," she said. "That isn't the point. Everyone will be looking to see who seems nice, who laughs too much, who looks cool, who looks as if they might be friendly, and who looks a complete dork. You've got about 30 seconds to make an impression."

Me too. If ever there was a time when parents felt themselves under the scrutiny of the Big School down the road, it's now. Junior School is a breeze for parents - because the scholars are so young, parents and teachers can pretend to agree that tiny delinquents are merely incorrigible and yelling neurotics. Merely highly strung. But once they're past 10, and are at least in the gravitational pull of puberty and moral choice, there's no hiding place. Your little angel is on a downhill race to being

grown up, and will be either a good or bad advertisement for how you've brought them up.

So as the first term approaches, the parents read the school's printed material far more nervously than the children at whom it is aimed. "Read the School Rules and the Uniform List," snarls a communication from the Head to all new pupils. "You have to obey them." Crikey. I sit and read the "Parents' Practical Guide to Homework" as if it's the Ten Commandments. I peruse the "Dealing with Asthma" letter as if it were a newly discovered missive from Shakespeare to the Dark Lady. I nod submissively as I'm told precisely where to find this item of clothing, and precisely how to pay for it. (And take your hands out of your pockets, you grubby little man.)

Smarting beneath the lash of the music department's scorn ("Please do not apply for piano lessons if you do not have, or are not prepared to obtain, a piano"), I watch my daughter talking to her mother about hem lengths. She has tried on the new school skirt and discovered it is an inch below the knee. Aarrgh! Sophie knows it is social death to have a skirt anything longer than two inches above the knee. And some of the first-year girls are phoning each other in tears, because Peter Jones has run out of Big School blazers and they must suffer the indignity of their Junior School ones for the first week. Poor them. Poor her. Poor me. We are all heading for a nasty learning curve.

My first day at school

INTERVIEWS BY
CAYTE WILLIAMS

Alison Roberts (half of fashion design duo Antoni & Alison)
Pashley Down Primary School, East Sussex, 1968

From the day I knew I was going to school, I'd known that my teacher's name was Miss Sykes. I had a huge fear of getting her name wrong and called her Miss Skies all that day and all through school. The more nervous I was of getting it wrong, the worse it got. My mum made me this pink cape with a fur hood and I remember walking along with my mum to school on the first day, trying to remember this lady's name.

I started school a bit later than some of the other children. I think some people started in September, but because my birthday was in February, I started in March. My mum took me to the school and I remember being really, really nervous. It seemed that everybody



knew what was going on apart from me.

I remember going into the canteen for school dinners. The dinner ladies would give you a piece of meat pie on a plate and you would have to help yourself to potatoes from this pot in the middle of the table when you sat down. I remember the children passing it around and I saw it coming towards me. I was very nervous and didn't want to draw attention to myself at all. I remember balancing a potato on my spoon, and watching it wobble because I was shaking so much with nerves. Then somebody jolted my arm and this potato went flying across the table and landed in a boy's dinner. Gravy splattered all over his nice striped T-shirt and he was so upset that he screamed his head off. I remember seeing this big cartoon mouth like something out of Charlie Brown. I can still see his tummy now.

Meg Henderson, novelist
St Philomena's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glasgow, 1954

It taught itself to read before I went to school, so when I arrived, there was this great rumpus. I grew up in the Black Hill district of Glasgow which was a place connoted for the poor Irish Catholics in Glasgow. It was the safest and

most moral place I have ever lived, because the police wouldn't go anywhere near there so it was policed by the teddy boy gangs.

When my mother told the teachers that I could read, they produced a book with a snug look on their faces, but were shocked when I started to read. The teachers got stuck into my mother on the very first day, their idea was that learning was theirs to give, and not yours to give yourself. My first day was spent stuck at a desk and given book after book to read while the other children played with plasticine. I didn't realise it was a punishment.

I ran home to my mother at lunchtime to make sure she was still there. When I went back in the afternoon I read books. I was wearing a white frilly blouse, a little Royal Stuart tartan kilt, kiltie shoes with big silver buckles on the front, and a big ribbon which looked like I had a budge on my head.

I remember I was getting up quite excited because my big brother was already there and school. I remember getting all dressed up in that bloody outfit. My mother took me along to school and I remember that all these kids were crying because it was their first experience of being away from their mothers. My brother was in the other part of the school, so telling him that I'd been to school was very exciting.

The funny thing was the teachers regarded me with some esteem, because everytime a school inspector came, they made me get up and read as an example of their success. I knew all the children who were in my class anyway because we lived in a close-knit community.

I remember running home from school, not only because I was excited, but because the gas works nearby opened up all their pipes at around 3pm and there were no filters in those days. If you were out-

side you got the full blast of the sulphur.

When I got home from school, I couldn't believe that I had to go back the next day.

Sarah Carlton, communications trainer
College House Juniors, Nottingham, 1968

My father was in the forces so I must have moved to a new school in both England and Germany seven times. The longest time I ever spent was in my last school which was for five years. The day I remember the most clearly was going to the second year of a junior school when I was eight. I was really nervous and I remember walking into the class. The teacher introduced me and everybody was staring at me. It was like taking a deep breath and jumping in to the deep end of the swimming pool. While the teacher talked about me

ATTACK ON IRAQ

reckless actions have consequences'



War and the pity of war: A Tomahawk cruise missile (left) lifting off from the Laboon, one of the US warships in the Gulf region, and people who fled recent fighting sheltering (right) in a camp in the Kurdish city of Kirkuk

Americans lost in the moral maze of the Middle East

The moral was simple. Act like a beast and the B-52s will come winging in from Guam, just like they did yesterday. "When you abuse your own people... you must pay the price," President Bill Clinton told Saddam Hussein. And even our very own Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was thundering forth about Saddam's "terrible record of humanitarian [sic] atrocities." All true.

Saddam Hussein is a wicked man. His prison cells are filled with torture victims, his hangmen on 24-hour duty - women are executed on Wednesdays and Saturdays - and his secret police maintain raping rooms below their offices. But if the military targets were specific, the moral indignation was also

highly selective. For if iniquity were the trigger for air attack, then the B-52s would be carpet-bombing the Middle East for weeks.

General John Shalikashvili, we are told, held a friendly conversation with Hosni Mubarak just before the cruise missiles were launched, to test the Egyptian leader's reaction to the coming blitz. Neither side would discuss their talks but we can be sure there was one subject on which Gen Shalikashvili did not question Mr Mubarak: the systematic use of torture by the Egyptian state security police on those suspected of violently opposing the regime.

Electricity applied to genitals, beatings and cigarette burns are routine in the intelligence offices at Lazoughly Street in Cairo and in Alexandria, where the general and the President were chatting. In two Egyptian jails, warders punish prisoners by forcing them to rape each other. More than 20 have been killed in one prison complex alone. But we can be sure that loyal Egypt will see no B-52s.

The Americans also called on the Saudis during their pre-bombardment tour of the Middle East. And here again, we can be sure they did not raise Saudi Arabia's habit of subjecting men and women accused of

murder, rape or drug-dealing to secret trials in which they often have no defence counsel - followed by public beheading outside mosques on Friday mornings. Women have their scarves removed before male executioners slice off their heads. A mother and daughter were executed this way in Dhahran; the youngest woman to be executed in the pro-Western Gulf, a Sri Lankan girl, was shot by firing squad just after her nineteenth birthday for allegedly killing her employer's baby, a charge she denied.

The whipping of young women by men is a common punishment for female pris-

oners accused of illicit relations in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. But Saudi Arabia still plays host to 5,000 US servicemen and just happens to hold the world's largest oil reservoir. Very definitely no B-52s over Saudi Arabia.

Then there is the friendly little island of Bahrain, home base of the US Gulf fleet, from where its admiral was yesterday directing two of his warships to fire their cruise missiles at Iraq. Less than a mile from the admiral's wardroom stands the headquarters of Bahrain's security police, where the regime's opponents - who demand a return to parliamentary democ-

cracy but stand accused of trying to overthrow the regime - are routinely tortured with beatings and sexual abuse. Chief torturer is a Jordanian army colonel who acts as translator for the man who runs the security police, former British Special Branch man Ian Henderson. Mr Portillo, needless to say, has never been known to beat his breast over these peccadilloes. So no B-52s en route for Bahrain.

Iraq was also forewarned of the US attack on Iraq. Yet it is more than a certainty that no American raised the question of Israel's notorious Khiam jail in southern Lebanon - in which hundreds of Shia prisoners have

been routinely tortured with electricity applied to fingers and genitals - nor the massacre of 105 refugees in a UN "safe haven" in southern Lebanon in April, a bloodbath which occurred in the course of an offensive to which Mr Portillo originally gave his moral approval. Absolutely never - ever - will B-52s head for Israel.

Iraq's neighbour Syria has a dodgy record on human rights. The massacre of prisoners at Palmyra and the slaughter of thousands of Islamists at Hama in 1982, along with ferocious torture in the dungeons of five security organisations, is mentioned from time to time,

though not by Mr Clinton when he paid a state visit to Damascus in 1994. US commentators do suggest that if Syria doesn't stop "supporting terrorism" and sign up for peace with Israel, it may receive a cruise or too. So Syrians may have to watch the skies if they don't do what they are told by the Americans. But so far, no B-52s.

How President Saddam must look back at the golden days when we sold weapons to his army of torturers, when we supported his invasion of Iran, when we armed his artillerymen. Because, when he did what he was told, no one wasted his time with talk of human-rights abuses. When you are a friend of the West, you don't have to pay the price.

Iraqi forces ordered by leaders to ignore UN no-fly zones

Baghdad (Reuters) - Unbowed by yesterday's United States missile attacks, which he said caused little damage, President Saddam Hussein ordered his armed forces to down any hostile plane flying over Iraq and to ignore the Western-imposed northern and southern "no-fly" zones.

Wearing his field marshal's uniform, he addressed the nation in a live speech on state radio and television just hours after the missile attack on southern Iraq.

"You men of the air defence and flocks of the skies consider from now their damned imaginary lines north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd parallel non-existent."

"Hit back with capability and efficiency, relying on God the Almighty, at any hostile plane

the aggressors fly to violate the airspace of your great country throughout Iraq from now and in future," Saddam said.

Carrying out those orders, directed at both anti-aircraft gunners and pilots, would require an air engagement that Iraq avoided even when it had the far more formidable force that captured Kuwait in 1990.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, in a telephone interview broadcast live on CNN television, said: "Iraq will not tolerate this 'no-fly zone' any more. It has gone beyond reason... [it] has been used as one of the means for aggression against Iraq."

Saddam Hussein said God "humiliated the aggression and the aggressors", stressing that

Iraq losses were minimal. A spokesman for Iraq's general command of the armed forces, quoted on state television, later said that the US missile attacks had killed five people and wounded 19, including civilians.

"The sons of Iraq were on their guard for the aggressors, downing a great number of their missiles," Saddam said. He did not say how many US cruise missiles were shot down.

"Once again the humiliated and lowly Americans have come to perpetrate their often-repeated cowardly act by hiding behind technological development that God Almighty has turned into an insult on them," Iraq's President said.

"Resist them and teach them a new lesson in the meanings which their humiliating and lowly souls do not carry," Sad-

dam Hussein urged his troops.

Mr Aziz told CNN that Iraqi military units who had helped the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) regain the city of Arbil from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had returned to their bases several hours before Washington fired missiles at Iraq.

"What we did was legitimate. What the United States did was illegitimate and against international law, against the letter and spirit of United Nations resolutions about Iraq," Mr Aziz said. "What we did was a responsible, positive, limited operation to help our people. We did nothing wrong."

Mr Aziz dismissed official US reports that Iraqi troops were still in Arbil or moving towards the Kurdish town of Sulaymaniyah as "deliberate disinformation".

Arabs refuse to back US strike

ADEL DARWISH

Cracks in the American-led Gulf war alliance were behind President Bill Clinton's decision to go it alone and launch a cruise missile attack on Iraqi targets, according to diplomats in the region.

Fearing a shift of the power balance in the region if the United States further weakened Iraq's power, Arab countries refused to sanction the US attack, and some Washington allies in the region condemned the action.

The 22-nation Arab League yesterday said the attack infringing an Arab country's sovereignty and the league's secretary general, Dr Esmat Abdel-Meguid, said there was no international legitimacy for the US action.

It was an Arab League summit in Cairo in August 1990 that paved the way for the Arab-Western alliance led by the US against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. However, the US has recently found Gulf countries who readily allowed their air bases to be used in 1991 less compliant than they were.

United Arab Emirates, used by western forces during the Gulf war operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, appeared to be

backing Iraq's action in Kurdistan. "Iraq has the right to defend the integrity and independence of its territory," said one official in Abu Dhabi. The official UAE media said foreign intervention in Iraq's internal affairs was a violation of international law. The President, Sheikh Zayid bin Sultan al-Nahyan, told the US ambassador, David Lyth, that the US should mediate between the fighting Kurdish factions if it wanted peace in "Northern Iraq". The term - as distinct from "Kurdistan" - was also used by Egypt's Foreign Secretary, Amr Moussa, before the missile strike when he called for "restraint" and defended Iraq's sovereignty.

The Egyptians played a major role in lining up the Arab coalition behind the US in 1990, but Cairo yesterday expressed its "deep concern" over "the current incidents on the Iraqi land", and called for "a full respect and implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions".

Both commentators on state controlled Cairo television and spokesmen for independent parties pointed out that Security Council Resolution 688, issued after the ceasefire to protect minorities in Iraq, had no provision for the use of force. The com-

mentators also pointed out that the no-fly zone was imposed by the US and Britain, it is not mentioned in the resolution.

Similar comments, pointing to the ambiguity of the situation under international law, were expressed in newspapers in Saudi Arabia.

The weakness of Arab support for US policy is caused by a combination of factors. Many leaders face domestic fundamentalist opposition. The peace process with Israel following the election of a hardline Likud government is stalling badly. And a weak Iraq might tilt the balance of power in favour of Iran, accused by many Arab leaders

of backing Islamic terrorists.

In Jordan, King Hussein has faced riots over food pricing. This week the Jordanians said they will not allow their soil to support any intervention in Iraq. Officials argued that the continuing policy of stopping Baghdad from extending control over the rebellious Kurds in the north and the Shia in the south was "a dangerous recipe and would invite countries in the region to use this power vacuum to their advantage".

Iraq's official media said the attack was a ploy by Mr Clinton to boost his popularity before the US presidential election. But it also warned that the fighting could lead to a repeat of the Kurds' exodus to Iran. A similar point was expressed by Turkey.

Several Arab diplomats said they do not believe that the US has a meaningful strategy in the region, a point shared by some Iraqi opposition groups. "The missile attack shows that Washington is always ready for a reaction when Saddam makes a move every two or three years, but it also shows that there is no long term American strategy in dealing with the current Iraqi regime," said Dr Laith Knbbah of the Iraqi National Congress yesterday.

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School's out: Two children in Grozny survey the ruins of their school as a new term is due

Photograph: AP

Lebed puts Chechen death-toll at 90,000

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Still flushed by his swift, if fragile, peace pact with the Chechens, Alexander Lebed delivered another surprise to his fellow Russians yesterday by saying as many as 90,000 people may have been killed in the war, nearly three times more than previously estimated.

Although the death-toll in the 21-month conflict has always been based on sketchy figures, the general's claim aroused attention because of his role as Russia's Security Council chief and presidential envoy to the war zone, positions which should give him access to official Russian statistics.

His figures, which he admitted were "plus or minus 10,000", are far higher than estimates usually quoted by aid organisations, the media, and the US State Department, which

generally set the figure at between 30,000 and 40,000. The great bulk of these were civilians caught in the maelstrom which erupted when President Boris Yeltsin sent troops into Chechnya in December 1994 in an attempt to end the republic's bid for independence.

Mr Lebed came up with the figures at a press conference in Moscow where, far from dripping in official garlands, the general returned from his weekend Caucasus peace mission to face a barrage of criticism from his political opponents. These ranged from accusations that he is playing into the hands of Chechen criminals to complaints that his powers of office are illegal.

The Communists' former presidential candidate, Genady Zyuganov, yesterday weighed in, alleging the peace deal violates the Russian constitution. True to his national-

ist instincts, he described the conflict as "exclusively Russia's internal affair".

The general's position has not been made any easier by Mr Yeltsin's failure to say anything publicly about the pact or even to interrupt his holiday to meet with him. "I must say I could do with sincere support by the President," said Mr Lebed, although he went on to say he had been in contact with his boss by telephone. Silence, he remarked, was a "sign of consent".

He will also take comfort from the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin - no particular friend of Mr Lebed's - who has warned to the deal, a preliminary pact which defers settlement of the republic's political status for five years. He told a meeting in the North Caucasus that, while the terms were the "cause of some concern, on the whole we consider them right".

Mr Lebed has himself to blame for some of the flak. A photograph of him sporting a Caucasian sheepskin hat and coat and (cigarette-holder) jutting jauntily from beneath his boxer's nose) flourishing a traditional knife will have delighted newspaper editors when it landed on their desks, shortly after the deal was signed. But

it will not have played well at home, even among the general's many fans who are relieved the fighting has stopped, but who have never had any love for the Chechens.

This fondness for the lime-light has led to accusations that Mr Lebed is using his role to pitch for the Kremlin's top job, calculating that the sifting Mr Yeltsin may not occupy it for long. He denies it. "I cannot understand political organisations and the media who allege that I have launched a presidential campaign," he said. "I just want to end the war."

Although many will suspect he protests too much, he can cite his record, which is far better than previous Russian peace-brokers'. Federal forces are withdrawing from southern Chechnya and Grozny. And there is peace, albeit one clouded by fears of an outbreak of bloodletting between the separatists and the supporters of the Moscow-backed government of Doku Zavgayev. Mr Lebed said the next step was to set up some form of government - he speaks of "joint temporary executive and legislative power bodies" - from across the republic's political spectrum. This undertaking will be no easier than any that has gone before.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A lone Palestinian hijacker seized a Bulgarian charter plane on a flight from Beirut yesterday afternoon but released all 150 passengers at Varna airport, near Bulgaria's Black Sea coast, before ordering the crew to fly on to Oslo. The hijacker, who seized the TU-150 aircraft 15 minutes before it touched down in Varna. "The pilot convinced [the hijacker] that the plane needed refuelling and a cleared passage to the final destination," said the director of Varna airport, Atanas Atanasov. *Reuter - Varna*

Liberia's new head of state, Ruth Perry, was sworn in with the task of guiding the country's armed factions to disarmament and elections scheduled for next May. At the ceremony in the capital Monrovia, Ms Perry, a senator during the 1980s under late president Samuel Doe, urged Liberians to reconcile and reunite. "I will play the role of a stabiliser and the Council of State must be seen as one united force speaking with one voice." *Reuter - Monrovia*

A minority rights group led by the late Ken Saro-Wiwa blasted the Commonwealth for its response to Nigeria since the execution of the activist. Calling the Commonwealth a "hostage" of Nigeria's military leader General Sani Abacha, the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People criticised its plan to send officials to Lagos to salvage a Commonwealth foreign ministers' mission to the country. The mission was planned for 29-30 August but was called off after Nigeria's military regime made clear the visitors would be tightly controlled. Commonwealth officials will meet Nigerian on 9 September officials to try to arrange another mission acceptable to both sides. *AP - Lagos*

Rioting broke out in the Sudanese capital Khartoum over high food prices and bread shortages, and state-run newspapers said 35 students and workers accused of inciting weekend disturbances were to be flogged. Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported that despite heavy security, students poured out of university campuses and shouted anti-government slogans. Gunshots could be heard and police forces were moving to surround the protesters, Mena said. *AP - Khartoum*

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said his fellow Germans must never forget the horrible suffering imposed on Ukrainians - especially Jews - by German troops during Second World War. "German hands did horrible things to people here," said Mr Kohl, in a speech to Kiev university students during a trip to Ukraine and Russia. *AP - Kiev*

More than 1,000 supporters of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), the country's main opposition, celebrated the release of former president Kamuzu Banda's two closest associates. Mr Banda's aide John Tembo, his heir-apparent as MCP leader, and Mr Banda's long-time companion Cecilia Kadzamira were arrested on Monday on charges of conspiracy and attempted murder. *Reuter - Blantyre*

China plans to have the world's tallest building by 1998. A 1,499ft (450metre), 100-story building in Chongqing in south-western China will claim the record, now held by the 1,483ft Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. But work is to start soon on what is planned to be an even taller building - 140 stories - in the southern city of Guangzhou, Xinhua said. *AP - Peking*

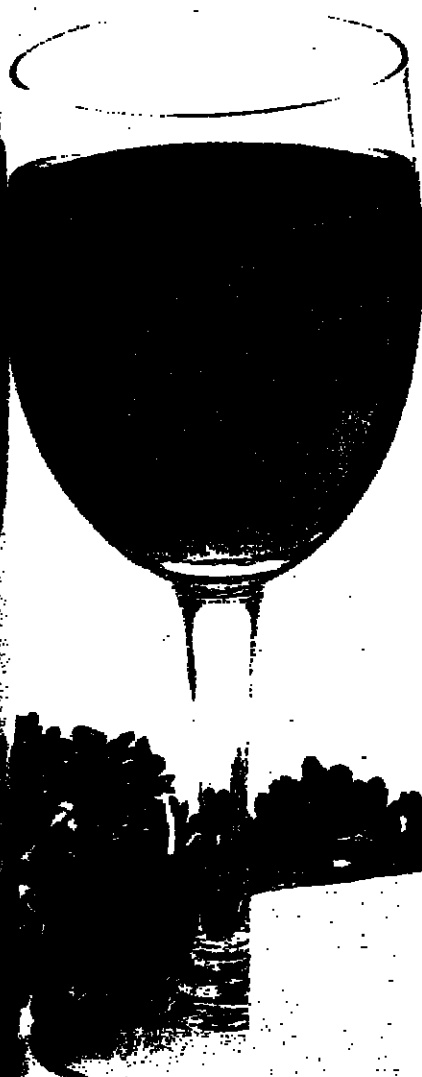
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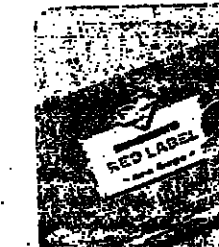


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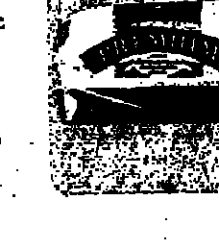


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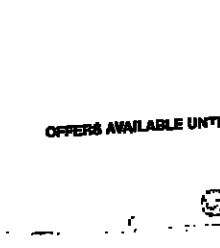
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The City joins the Euro-propagandists

Hysteria and hyperbole are not, it seems, the unique preserve of Euro-sceptics. According to a chorus of alarmists this week, the City is under siege and the titans will pull out our manufacturing industry already being undermined by our hostility to the euro.

First, big-wigs in the Square Mile warned that London's position as the financial centre of Europe would be jeopardised if Britain were left out of a European single currency. Michael Cassidy of the Corporation of London even claimed that "envious" French and Germans were conspiring to write the rules of the single currency to destroy London and rebuild Frankfurt or Paris in its place.

Then, in an interview with the *Independent*, the chief executive of Mercedes-Benz said he thought Britain would be a very attractive place to invest... were it not for the uncertainty surrounding the single currency.

These are strong words. At first sight they seem to boost the arguments of Euro-enthusiasts such as Kenneth Clarke, who have long feared the economic consequences of remaining outside a European currency. The costs of "being an out" rather than an "in" have suddenly changed from being the hypothetical bubble of economists to the tangible investment and trading decisions of business people and bankers.

Imagine the demise of the City of London (and its £20bn overseas earnings) and the end to lucrative inward investment - all because we opted out.

However, Ken Clarke and his ilk should be wary of allies like the Corporation of London. It is true that there are important real costs to staying out of a single currency. The British people need to consider them. But the debate this week served only to exaggerate, obscure and confuse. As such, it could even be counter-productive for the pro-European cause.

London's pre-eminence as a financial centre will not be threatened by the emergence of the euro. London is by far the biggest currency market in the world, and commands a substantial 59 per cent of the turnover in foreign equities too. The idea that Frankfurt or Paris, with their tiny market share and their very different trading culture, could lure the big banks away just because of the euro is not plausible.

The London bankers claim that the French and Germans are conspiring to construct the single currency so that it is more costly to trade in euros from Britain than from euro member states. But the rules of the single market are unlikely to permit such unfair competition, and even if they did allow it, the costs of trading in euros from London will still be marginal in comparison to the immense advantages.

Moreover, exaggerating the threat to

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the City risks discrediting and drowning out the very genuine risk to inward investment, one of the few economic success stories of the Thatcher and Major years. Factories built by the North Americans, the Japanese and East Asians, and even our fellow Europeans, have helped to rejuvenate our skill base, modernise our management practices and provide jobs in areas of high unemployment. If foreign companies locate new plants elsewhere because of the perceived advantages of a single currency area, the loss to the British economy could be considerable.

Should the French and Germans go ahead with currency union at the end of the century, the British people will have a difficult decision to make weighing the pros and cons of joining up. We will need to be realistic about the potential economic costs of opting out as well as the economic and political risks in joining a rigid monetary system. Exaggerations from particular interest groups won't increase our chances of getting the decision right.

But the claims by the Corporation of London are doubly dangerous. While the logical conclusion of its remarks is that Britain should join the euro, the logic itself is highly anti-European: the

French and the Germans are out to destroy the City. From such a standpoint, a single currency is not a constructive, co-operative European venture. It is an aggressive, competitive move cooked up by rapacious foreigners.

This picture of the plucky British democrats forced into currency union by the manoeuvrings of the French and Germans risks increasing anti-European sentiments among the British people. Even more important, it will not reassure those nervous inward investors. For it is British belligerence over Europe, as much as the structure of European currencies, which is putting investors off. The British government appears so hostile to Europe now that companies fear their chances of enjoying a single market, never mind a single currency, are jeopardised if they operate from these shores. Were we to demonstrate more determination to co-operate, work closely with our European allies and participate in Europe, we could go a long way towards reassuring inward investors - even if ultimately we decide not to join the euro.

This week should have been a welcome and important turning point in the debate over a single currency. Until now, the British public have had to make do with only the shrill xenophobia of the Euro-sceptic right, or the evasive attempts of those in the polit-

ical mainstream to delay the discussion until after the election. For the first time this week the vested interests in finance and industry started to publicise the problems they will face if Britain is isolated in Europe. What a shame that the City missed the opportunity to better the European debate, and mimicked propagandists from the other side instead.

English homes and castles

English Heritage wants to list a score of post-war local authority developments. A boo echoes from Berwick to Brighton. Actually, there is a strong architectural case for most of the candidates. But accepting these candidates for posterity could mean riding roughshod over the principle of allowing users of buildings a say in how they are judged. The failure of some estates to provide reliable accommodation is an architectural failure, though it is also connected to council budgets and social security. Still, functional ineffectiveness is a principle we have never let stop us admiring the works of antiquity. Some of those great castles were horrible to live in and quickly stormed. And what of the Colosseum, many of whose "users" had a hard time of it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No, we can't go on getting deeper in debt

Sir: May I congratulate you on your leader ("Whisper it: Blair may have to raise taxes", 2 September). You leave out only one point: which is that the decline of our revenue base is largely a consequence of unintelligent cost-cutting.

All governments must count costs, but they must count them right. There is a Treasury guideline which says that any department planning to reduce spending must assess the consequent costs to the budgets of other departments. They do not observe this guideline.

When they first changed the trade-off between inflation and unemployment they failed to calculate not only the consequent increase in the social security budget, but also the consequent decline in the revenue base.

Today, when they introduce cuts in the social security budget, they do not calculate costs in increased spending on crime or health, nor revenue loss by loss of future employability.

When the Government, as an employer, goes in for "downsizing," it does not calculate the consequent loss of revenue. As a result, anyone who has tried to telephone a hospital or a railway station knows that the paradigm symptom of Conservatism is unemployment and understaffing both at once. In pressing for a deregulated labour market, they have not counted the cost of having employees who receive in-work benefits instead of paying taxes.

Conservative economy which tries to save money by not mending a hole in the roof. It is an expensive habit and the sooner all parties realise it, the better.

Earl RUSSELL
Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Social Security,
House of Lords,
London SW1

Sir: Congratulations on your courage in headlining the unsustainability of present fiscal policies ("We can't go on like this", 2 September).

Your graph would be even more enlightening if it included the massive deviation between earlier optimistic projections of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, and latest actual outcomes/estimates. The 1994 budget showed total growth in borrowings of £9bn for the three years from 1996/1997, whereas additional borrowing is now projected at £48bn by the Treasury's admission, or nearer £70bn by outside estimates!

Clearly, we can now see that last year's penny off income tax was irresponsible. The electorate must realise that any further income tax cuts, without painful and massive economies, would be a profligate electioneering stunt, to be paid for by swingeing future measures. PETER THURNHAM MP
(Bolton North East, Independent)
Sandal, Cumbria



investments which Clinton contemplated in 1992 were quickly held to be unfeasible, and he has since given up any attempt to appeal to the poor except by default.

There are, however, two kinds of deficit, affecting different constituencies. Under President Carter budget deficits were held to be irresponsible by the business community, as they were held to divert available capital away from productive private investment to maintain public expenditure. Such complaints were not heard when Reagan increased the deficit and debt several times over, through disproportionate reductions in corporate and high income taxes, and spending on social programmes.

If a serious attempt were now made by Labour to increase British public expenditure on welfare, one may guarantee that Moynihan's theory would take effect and the deficit would be brought on to the agenda by the right as an argument for "fiscal responsibility". MARK WALMSLEY
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Sir: The chart under your headline shows something very significant: the country's finances fluctuated but the trend was mostly upwards until about the time that John Major replaced Margaret Thatcher. After that the finances plummeted.

After too many misguided Conservative MPs had re-elected Major in the last leadership contest, just over a year ago, my opinion was that we had no more chance of winning the next general election than if they had chosen Lord Sutch. I can see no reason to change that opinion. R. CROSE
Pwllheli, Gwynedd

Decide first, consult later

Sir: Christopher Foster ("The trouble with conviction", 2 September) is right to sound a warning about government consultation and the near sham it has become - certainly in education.

"Consultation" on the recent White Paper ends on 4 October. This date, and the details of where to respond, are buried in the first chapter. A leaflet with a summary of the White Paper proposals was sent to every school. It does not even mention that these are proposals for consultation. Strong rumours suggest that legislation to implement these proposals will be introduced in October. Presumably the details are being finalised now. No wonder cynicism about our political system is so widespread. MARGARET TULLOCH
Executive Secretary
Campaign for State Education
London SW20

Cooled air and global warming

Sir: Andrew Warren (Letters, 2 September) is right to highlight the dilemma of climate change but wrong to identify air-conditioning as a serious offender. Carbon dioxide emissions from air-conditioning in the UK account for less than 1 per cent of the total and bear no comparison with motor vehicles, which contribute almost a quarter.

Mr Warren should be applauding electricity producers, because it is largely through their efforts the UK is one of the few countries on course to meet its obligations to reduce emissions of global warming gases by the year 2000. Further ahead, CO₂ emissions from electricity production in 2010 are forecast to be 25 per cent below 1990 levels. In the same period emissions from transport are expected to rise by 33 per cent.

PHILIP DAUBENEY
Chief Executive
The Electricity Association
London SW1

Sir: When will someone invent a solar-powered air-conditioning unit? It is not quite perpetual motion, but adheres to the principle. HAMISH KUZMINSKI
London SW4

Young offenders beyond shame

Sir: The most objectionable aspect of the proposal to identify young offenders and thus to use shame as a correctional instrument ("Penal groups attack plan to name young offenders", 2 September) is that it will not work.

Offenders commonly come from family homes that have been fractured by poor housing and hopelessness (relative) poverty, or violence, or alcohol abuse, or delinquent associates. Rates of expulsion from school are rising alarmingly, and the offenders and their parents are already so socially detached from ordinary routines

and expectations that it is pointless to threaten them with the ostracism of being named as petty criminals. Being named in an emblem of toughness by many culprits.

The scheme is yet another pre-election ruse under which politicians can be seen to be "tough on criminals" while really being evasive on the social causes of crime. Dr GARY SLAPPER
The Law School
Staffordshire University
Stoke-on-Trent

All right Polly, I can take a hint

Sir: Polly Toynbee ("Where do all the New Men go?", 2 September) may well be right in her underlying thesis, adhered to by a great many women: men are worthless.

Since men are worthless, they should be dispensed with. Step One is a euthanasia programme for all adult males, except only those 1 in 25 or so who - after DNA testing based on results from the Human Genome Project - may qualify as having a genetic make-up socially worth passing on. Step Two is to apply the DNA test to all new-born males.

Personally, having sired a brainy daughter and being hardly economically productive, I should be happy to volunteer for euthanasia. The only problem is, my wife and daughter would miss me. Yes, honestly. DAVID J BOGGIS
Orpington, Kent

Ambulances in gridlock

Sir: I presume Mr Rose, being from Gwynedd (Letters, 3 September), has never seen a fire engine or an ambulance racing to the scene in central London. The same roads are gridlocked every day, and with an average speed of 10 miles per hour it is not too difficult to imagine the problems faced by the emergency services.

The action of Reclaim the Streets would appear to be to highlight the ease with which roads can become congested and to make drivers contemplate other transport options which will leave these major arteries clear for essential traffic. ROBIN DUCKWORTH
St Albans Hospital,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire

Sir: Mark Rasmussen (Letters, 3 September) observes how much better the lot of the pedestrian would be if "drivers at intersections had to wait for pedestrians to cross before turning". That is precisely what the Highway Code says they should do. Rule 108 (1993 edition) reads: "Give way to pedestrians crossing a road into which you are turning."

The problem is not the rules of road, but the near-universal ignorance and indifference to them. Whereas these vices apply to all classes of road users, drivers of motor vehicles are uniquely equipped to do damage and make a nuisance of themselves. IAN MILLER
E-mail:
Ian.Miller@biffrost.demon.co.uk

Sir: Does Bridget Jones exist? Does she look like the photograph beside her column (Bridget Jones's Diary, 28 August)? If the answer to both these questions is "yes" then I would like to propose marriage - pending her return from incarceration. T. TURKSON
London SE5

Music lessons are for art's sake

Dear Sir: I was interested to read about the Swiss research which confirms what many of us in the trade know through experience - that music lessons can boost a child's reading ability and language development ("Look, listen and learn", 29 August).

But if those who are trying to promote music in schools seize on this "transfer effect" as evidence for the value of music in the curriculum, they are falling into the age-old trap of utilitarianism. They should instead concentrate on the fact that musical activity - the handling of non-verbal sounds in time - is a unique form of human experience, a unique way of knowing and of expression.

As music therapists can tell us, music gets through to both young and old when other channels of communication are blocked. All children, and not merely those who are "gifted", benefit from musical experiences.

If music and the other expressive arts are elbowed out of the curriculum in the political clamour for more time for the 3Rs and science, we shall be educating a generation of young people who are using, literally, only part of their brains.

Teachers need to encourage children to think not only logically, but laterally and imaginatively as well. That wider mode of thinking will stand them in good stead in adulthood, whatever their job. BARBARA POINTON
Former Head of Music, Homerton College, Cambridge
Royston, Hertfordshire

Sir: On Saturday I found myself in the company of four young teachers ("Labour warns of acute teacher shortage", 2 September). One, an art educator, had already left school work to undertake further training. She will not return to teaching. "If you can help it". All the other three, one primary and two secondary, are considering leaving the profession.

The reason? The stressful conditions under which they now work. Criticised by anyone seeking a scapegoat for social problems - the Government, parents, the media - they know how seriously they take the job they do and just how hard it has become. They also feel, by comparison with professional peers in the legal and business fields, profoundly undervalued.

The issue ties in neatly with correspondence on the need for child care at school age (Letters, 2 September). The way many parents now order their lives is seriously affecting the nature of the job that teachers do.

Try to imagine the pressure on one teacher from 30 children clamouring for the attention that two working parents are unable to give at home. PATRICIA GRAHAM
Tonbridge, Kent

Beloved Bridget

Sir: Does Bridget Jones exist? Does she look like the photograph beside her column (Bridget Jones's Diary, 28 August)?

If the answer to both these questions is "yes" then I would like to propose marriage - pending her return from incarceration. T. TURKSON
London SE5

analysis

The West's fantasy firepower

We have the military and technical might to deal with Saddam Hussein, but without the political will does international peacekeeping make sense, asks Patrick Cockburn

From the ground an incoming Tomahawk missile looks like a sinister black torpedo as it skims towards its target 500 feet above the ground. During the Gulf war its highly publicised ability to strike its target accurately from long distances made it a symbol of American military superiority over Iraq.

Five years on, the 27 Cruise and Tomahawk missiles fired on the orders of President Clinton yesterday at military targets in southern Iraq are more an expression of frustration and impotence. Nobody expects that they will accomplish much in reversing the impact of the takeover of Arbil, the Kurdish capital, by Saddam Hussein's newly acquired Kurdish allies backed by Iraqi tanks.

At first sight the Iraqi leader appears to have succeeded in doing what he signally failed to do when he invaded Kuwait in 1990. By withdrawing his troops rapidly he has robbed the US and its allies of a clear military and political target against which they can retaliate.

In the longer term Saddam Hussein's move may not be quite so astute. As in the past he has probably overplayed his hand. He has reassured Iraqi authority in parts of Kurdistan, but at the cost of delaying the oil-for-food plan agreed by the UN Security Council. Before the incursion into Arbil, Iraq was expected to sell 600,000 barrels of oil a day from later this month.

President Clinton is also damaged because the Iraqi attack gives international publicity to what has been evident in the Middle East for many months: that the Gulf war settlement is looking very ragged. This is not surprising. The vacuum of power that opened up when Iraqi Kurds set up a quasi-state in 1991 was always going to suck in Iran, Turkey and the Kurds' old masters in Baghdad.

Yet the US has done little in the past four years except try to freeze the situation in Iraq as it



Top guns? A US F14D support Tomcat takes off from the USS Carl Vinson in the Gulf. But the action leaves the Gulf war settlement looking decidedly ragged

Photograph: AFP

was after Saddam Hussein's defeat in Kuwait. The Kurds were not allowed to set up their own state. Members of the Foreign Office always refer to "northern Iraq", not Kurdistan. The "safe haven" for Kurds that emerged in 1991 was designed to be militarily and politically

whose divisions led to renewed Iraqi intervention, were given an impossible hand to play. It was always likely that they would look for outside allies in Tehran, Baghdad and Washington to make up for their own lack of strength. President Clinton might have avoided the

justify the American security protectorate over Saudi Arabia and the Gulf oil states. There is no doubt that Washington would like to get rid of Saddam Hussein, but it has always wanted to do so in a way which does not benefit Iran. This means preserving the Iraqi military establishment and avoiding the rise of a regime dependent on Iraqi Shia Muslims, who make up a majority of the population.

The Gulf conflict was a very conservative war. It was fought to return the Middle East to the status quo ante before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. In the weeks before the fighting started, a meeting of senior British officials, including all UK ambassadors from the Gulf, concluded that it would be counter-productive for the West and its local allies to continue on to Baghdad and overthrow Saddam. Their reasoning was that if they occupied Baghdad they would be forced to call elections within six months. These, in turn, would be likely to produce a democratic government dominated by the Shia and possibly sympathetic to Iran.

Nothing could be more destabilising to the Sunni Muslim rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. President Clinton's difficulty is that the Gulf war was sold as a democratic venture. A regime that flaunts its brutality as much as possible, like that of Saddam Hussein, is not difficult to demonise. This brutality had not prevented the US, Britain and most West European countries from cultivating Iraq dur-

ing the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. But in the lead-up to the Gulf conflict allied propaganda focused on the undoubted savagery of Iraqi torturers in Kuwait. Once the war was under way, the flight of the Kurds through their snow-covered mountains in the wake of their failed rebellion was flashed onto television screens across the world. Not surprisingly, viewers got the impression that the war was being fought, at least in part, for the sake of Iraqi self-determination. It will be difficult for Washington to stand to one side while Iraqi Kurdistan once again falls under the sway of Baghdad.

A further problem for the Gulf war allies is that their original military victory was over-sold. The image of the war presented by the allied military was of clinical efficiency. In the first hours of the allied air attack, missiles and smart bombs were shown smashing into telecommunications towers in Baghdad. Video film was taken by attacking aircraft showing bridges over the Tigris and Euphrates erupting as they were hit. Here was war without civilian casualties.

This was always misleading. Allied claims were exaggerated. Pilots claimed that in the Western Desert of Iraq they had hit 90 Scud launchers that were firing at Israel. An official report, sponsored by the US air force after the war, concluded that the real figure was nil. The pictures which had been shown on video by the attacking aircraft showed that most of the targets destroyed were flatbed

trucks or petrol tankers on the road to Jordan driven by Filipinos. Iraq lost more than 2,000 tanks in the war, but when a sample of these were examined by allied experts they concluded that only 10 per cent of these had been destroyed from the air. The rest had sim-

It is all very well to attack, as President Clinton did in 1993, the military intelligence headquarters. But Iraqi ministries and other institutions have all had alternate headquarters outside Baghdad since the Iran-Iraq war. Without intelligence on the ground, bomb-

President Clinton's difficulty is that the Gulf war was sold as a democratic venture

ply been abandoned by their crews.

These exaggerated accounts have been criticised in American official reports since the war. The latest, by the Government Accounting Office, revealed that the Stealth bombers had been far less effective than claimed at the time. The author of the report is believed to have spent one year writing it and three years trying to get permission to publish it. Yet the original picture of the war as portrayed by US television in the euphoria of victory has never disappeared. President Clinton had to order the firing of Cruise and Tomahawk missiles yesterday because they are still associated in the minds of the American public with the bloodless victory in the Gulf.

In practice they are likely to be ineffective. The real lesson of the Gulf war was that "smart" weapons work against fixed targets that are clearly identifiable. But in Iraq - and in any other country - these are likely to be in short supply.

ing is no more effective than when Britain first tried to bomb the Kurdish tribes into submission under the direction of Arthur "Bomber" Harris in the 1920s.

The attraction of bombing then is the same as the use of missiles now: They minimise casualties to our side. Harris promised that Kurdistan could be policed by using airpower alone. Cruise and Tomahawk missiles have the advantage that there is not even a pilot to be killed or captured. This limits the political danger to any government using them, even when, as in this case, they are unlikely to do anything to intimidate Saddam Hussein.

The danger is, of course, that reality catches up. In the Gulf war an attempt to kill Saddam Hussein in the Amariya shelter in Baghdad led to the deaths of 500 women and children. Israeli officers openly proclaimed at the start of the bombardment of Lebanon earlier this year that Operation Grapes of Wrath was modelled on the Gulf war air offensive.

Given the failure of the US Patriot missiles to bring down Iraqi Scuds aimed at Israel, this took a certain amount of self-deception on the part of the Israeli armed forces. But for military and political leaders in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the idea of a war in which no Israelis died was too attractive to turn down. Only when Israeli shells killed 101 Lebanese refugees at Qana did the rest of the world realise that claims of clinical accuracy were as spurious as ever.

The missile attacks will have no impact on Iraq. Expanding the no-fly zone in southern Iraq is likely to be equally ineffective. The failure of the northern no-fly zone has been demonstrated by the easy Iraqi conquest of Arbil. The Kurdish capital is on flat ground and could never be defended against Iraqi tanks - even if they were not aided by the guerrillas of Mr Barzani's KDP. In the south of Iraq the no-fly zone, imposed in 1992, has always been farcical. It has wholly failed to prevent Saddam Hussein draining the marshes where the Tigris and Euphrates meet and expelling the villagers who live there.

The Gulf war in Iraq and Grapes of Wrath have once again demonstrated the limits of air power as a method of enforcing political control. But this is not to say that Saddam Hussein's huge loss to Kurdistan is likely to prove strategically sound from Iraq's point of view. It resembles his invasion of Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990 in that it is too public a humiliation of his enemies. They are bound to respond by delaying, probably for a long time, permission for Iraq to export a limited quantity of oil. The US will put intense pressure on Turkey, which seemed the weakest link in the cordon of hostile states around Iraq, to continue enforcing sanctions.

As with the invasions of Iran and Kuwait, Saddam has made a tactical gain, but at what may be heavy strategic cost. The civil war in Kurdistan is not going to end. Jalal al-Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, is bound to counter-attack. The US will put pressure on Mr Barzani to end his alliance with Baghdad. Saddam Hussein may come to regret his renewed entanglement in Kurdistan, but for reasons that have nothing to do with Cruise or Tomahawk missiles.

Yesterday's article by Andrew Brown, "Can Prozac destroy our free will?", was based on an interview with John Cornwell, whose book, *Mind, Medicine and Murder on Trial*, will be published by Viking on September 16, price £18.

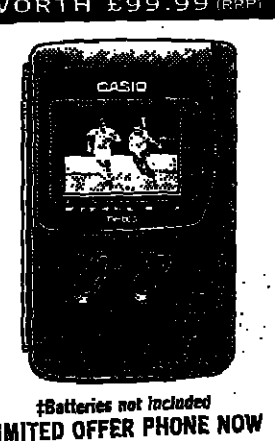
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For mad adverts, the Tory eyes have it

The Tories are not going to call an election this year, are they?

They have said they won't. Does that mean they will or they won't?

It could mean either. So they might be telling the truth?

Oh, yes. By the law of averages, even the Government tells the truth from time to time.

Well, if the Tories are not going to call a general election this year, why on earth did they choose this summer to indulge in their advertising campaign showing Tony Blair with mad, staring eyes?

Oh, that was nothing to do with their election strategy. That was all part of their holiday campaign.

What does that mean?

When the Government goes on holiday, it likes to leave some trouble behind it as a kind of smokescreen so that they won't be required to come racing back from their Tuscan, Umbrian or Provencal vacation.

So that's why they did that

ridiculous ad campaign showing Tony Blair with wild staring eyes, portraying him as Satan, etc?

Yes. They thought they would stir up enough trouble over that to distract attention from anything else that might need their real attention.

Like prisoners being released from prison too early?

Yes. That was the unfortunate kind of accident that no government likes to have happen during the summer holidays.

Which necessitated Michael Howard coming back early from his holidays?

No. He was back already. Michael Howard never takes holidays. He spends all his time in the office working on new ways to overwork the police and prison services. But at least Mr Howard was able to call the heads of the prison services back from their holidays.

Which made a change from the silly season...

Hold on, hold on. Are you suggesting that this is the silly season?



Miles Kingston

Yes. Isn't that so? Isn't summer the time when all the politicians are on holiday, so the papers have nothing to report but silly news?

No, no, no - the exact opposite is true. It is when the politicians are around that we get true silliness.

The soap opera season of British politics lasts for 10 months, and it is then that we get all the silly stories - Harriet Harman's child, Tony Blair's schools, Clare Short, Euro-

rebels, John Redwood's leadership bid, Michael Portillo's anything, and so on and so on. In the brief two months of summer we get a rest from all that and the British press gets sensible

just for a moment. I have never known why it was called the silly season.

It wasn't very sensible this year, what with Tony Blair's staring eyes and all that.

Well, I must say that if the Tories choose to fight the next election on who has the maddest eyes, they are leaving themselves wide open.

One thing I would like to know. Why, if the Tories wanted to show that Tony Blair has wild, mad, staring eyes, did they not use the eyes of Tony Blair himself, instead of the eyes of an actor?

It was a joke that went wrong. The original idea was to use the eyes of Michael Heseltine in the advertisement, on the grounds that the Tories had the wildest eyes of all right on their own doorstep.

Why didn't this happen?

Mr Heseltine wanted to charge too much money for the use of his eyes.

Why didn't they use the mad, cold, staring eyes of John Redwood?

Unfortunately, Mr Redwood was away on holiday at the time

in another galaxy many millions of miles from ours.

Why didn't they use the mad staring spectacles of Michael Howard?

Tony Blair doesn't wear spectacles. Why didn't they take off Michael Howard's spectacles and use his mad staring eyes for the Tony Blair poster?

Michael Howard never takes off his spectacles. Why not?

Because that would reveal that he had no eyes.

If Michael Howard doesn't have eyes, what does he have instead?

Behind those mad, staring spectacles, Michael Howard has only got tiny round close circuit security cameras, and a complicated autosec system which enables him to make long rabble-raising speeches without looking at a script or indeed without thinking.

Is that true?

No. But it is an idea that the Labour Party has been toying with seriously for its next ad campaign.

Sorted for textured alcoholic fruit gel-carb

'Alcopop' drinks should not make us fret about teenage boozing, but about marketing taking over the good night out

You may have noticed there are some vile alcoholic drinks about. They look and taste disgusting and are consumed by strangely dressed types. Such that they get you out of your head. They are named things like Headcracker, Sneek and GBH. Do they encourage alcoholism? Quite possibly, but as men drink them no smashed seem cool and grown-up? Yes, if they make getting beards and beer bellies signify maturity.

No, what we like to get worked up about is another kind of alcohol altogether. The "alcopops", the soft options that disguise the hard drinking that young people, especially young women, get up to. It is all a cynical marketing campaign to turn the nation's youth into lusers. And here's another one. A tangerine hair gel disguised as something you want to knock back while you are dancing around your handbag. Or while you're desperately trying to pull those dancing around their handbags. Or you've given up all hope and want something for bladdered people rather than

beautiful people. In other words - the words of the marketing reptiles - it should appeal to "the dance-floor element." A refreshing little "textured alcoholic fruit gel-carb" from Carlsberg-Tetley delicately called Thickhead. It's interesting in a Spacedust sort of way and is hyped as an essential feature of a fun night out. I think the essential feature of a fun night is being sick in bins at bus-stops, but I'm not in PR.

Actually no one could drink masses of this without gagging so the comparison with real ale holds up. Thickhead has done away with those dubious macho anxieties about the authenticity of booze. These new drinks are fizzy, fluorescent, infantile, saccharin-sweet and do a brilliant job of disguising the nasty taste of alcohol. While grown-ups may bore on about good wine, the sad truth is most of us would down a bottle of vinegar if it said Fleurie on the label and some hyperactive bling TV said it reminded her of Chanel No 5. Indeed the much-maligned alcopops are unpretentious little numbers which just zap you with their artificiality. Just what you'd expect from such post-modern little potions.



SUZANNE MOORE

They also come pre-packaged with a little post-modern moral panic about drinking and young people. Never mind the research which says that, as always, if teenagers want to get drunk, which they do, they spend their money on that which will get them drunk fastest - beer and cider. This new panic is imbued with the kind of memory lapses that one associates with progressive drinking. There have always been things like alcopops, but they were called shandy, lager-and-time, cider-and-black. It is not just lad culture in both its male and female incarnations that encourages excess. The gulf between new lad and old

lad was never as big and bold and bad as everybody liked to pretend. If it was, how come you could buy Oliver Reed T-shirts at the Great British Beer Festival?

The earnest worry about children being lured into "offies" to buy alcopops because honestly they just didn't realise that these drinks had alcohol in them is premised on denial - denial about the culture our kids grow up in, where every soft drink is sold as if it were a hallucinogen, in which imagery, graphic design, video have been under the influence of rave culture for a good few years now; denial about statistics that show that legal and illegal drugs are simply part of everyday experience for the majority of young people. This is not the same as saying that all young people take drugs and drink, but some of them do some of the time. Just like the rest of us. Some lives will be wrecked because of it and some will be enhanced because of it. Among 11- to 15-year-olds, 17 per cent, drink regularly and the majority do not have much disposable income. They are not the "repetitive drinkers" of club 18-30.

The logical conclusion of niche market-

ing is that new consumer groups have to be aggressively sought out. Drug dealers do it relatively openly; the drinks industry has taken to spiking lemonade in order to achieve its ends. Which is the more hypocritical?

What is most objectionable about these new products is that they no longer exist outside of the marketing loop. The line between product and packaging is blurred. The package, the trends, the inane definitions are conceived and a product invented to fit the bill. Portfolio products for portfolio times matching our taste for portfolio politics.

So don't worry your hangover heads about little girls drinking puke-flavoured Flavours for Ravens but ask yourself what happens when beliefs are replaced by "conceptual currents", when a good night out depends on a selection of chemicals "specifically styled to match the radically revised cultural concerns of pre-millennial youth culture". It's enough to make you yearn for the good old days when Jarvis's melancholy little refrain "Sorted for Es and whizz" sounded just like the real thing.

You can't cure an adrenalin junkie

Danger, for some, is just too irresistible, says Charles Arthur

I am 80 feet up a sheer cliff, with one foot on a ledge about as wide as a finger, the other dangling, while I try to get my sweating hands to cling to the bulging rock in front of my face. I am breathing hard, and very scared. Some feet above I can see a break in the rock, the next hold I am aiming for. If I don't reach it, I'll surely fall off - probably 10 or 15 feet, until the ropes attached to my waist stop me, and bang me into the cliff. It'll certainly hurt. I can almost hear the adrenalin washing through my head. It's wonderful. A great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Stephen Thornley doubtless knew the feeling, too. He was the British leader of a mountaineering expedition in Pakistan, an experienced climber who with two colleagues was declared dead this week after being hit by an avalanche.

Afterwards, Stephen's father said: "I was hoping he would do this and then give it up." The truth, however, is that for many people such sports are the only way to make life worth living. If Stephen had conquered that peak, he would have had his sights set on others, too. The common phrase is "adrenalin junkie": someone addicted to the high of real danger.

Cave-diving, potholing, rock climbing, motorbike and stock-car racing, cliff-diving, hang-gliding - all carry inherent risks, which to their devotees make them delicious in an increasingly safe world, where drugs have conquered old diseases, and better engineering has made cars and airplanes far safer than in the post-war years.

There are fatalities in all these sports, yet the really dangerous activities are those that we do not usually class as risky. Diving and swimming, along with horse-riding and rugby, cause far more broken necks than any "risk" sport. A higher proportion of people who swim beyond their depth off the British coast die than in mountaineering.

So why don't we talk of equestrianism, rugby and swimming in the same breath as cave-diving? Nobody looks at a rugby game and declares that it looks like a prime place for a serious injury, yet anyone gazing into the dank mouth of a pothole knows on a visceral level that it can't be a good place to get caught when the rain starts. Equally, people think that bungee-jumping is a harmless thrill, rather than a real risk - unaware of the fact that the shock at the bottom of the fall can damage the retina. To a real adrenalin junkie, it's the latter fact that would make the jump worthwhile.

At a time when we're surrounded by safety, hemmed in by cotton wool and told not to open interesting latches and intriguing doors, it's perverse and pointless to do dangerous things - which is exactly why some people have to do it. Stephen Thornley wasn't the first, and he won't be the last.

Do women deserve the vote?

The female vote has kept the Conservatives in office. Can Tony Blair expect a change next time?

Women are to blame. They are like turkeys voting for Christmas: when they get into the polling booth they lose their heads. It is not at all clear that the suffragettes did Britain much good, for if they had not chained themselves to the railings we would have been spared the past 17 years of Tory government. If women never had the vote, there would have been no Conservative government since the war. (Not altogether a good idea either, perhaps).

Why is the polling image of British women something akin to Hyacinth Bucket? Analysing the 1992 election, MORI says the Conservatives had a 7 per cent lead among women, and that gender gap has stayed remarkably static since the Second World War. New Labour puts its faith in a new appeal to women voters: Blair, after all, is not laddish like Kinnock. But MORI say they see no sign of any significant shift: an aggregate of nine polls in the past three months still shows the gender gap at 7 per cent.

How should Labour politicians seduce women? Evidence from focus groups and polls is glum news. Women are not interested and know even less about politics. They hate arguments. They are less likely to remember what a politician said on television five minutes afterwards. They hate old Labour's cloth-cap image because it is not aspirational enough. They hate jargon and statistics but like to be talked to gently in parables that reflect their own lives. They don't like risks - and a change of government is a risk.

Politicians have to be polite about the voters, but the rest of us don't. What a dismal portrait of womanhood. Stupid, disqual, selfish - nature's conservatives - is that it? I have to admit that this is not altogether news to those who have ever tried to mobilise women. In the heady days of women's liberation, the idea that we were going to mould women into a revolutionary cadre was always comical. Women are conservative with an infuriating tendency to be their own worst enemies (not all women, of course). They may be very good grumblers - they have plenty to grumble about - but grumbling is not a revolution.



POLLY TOYNBEE

Tessa Jowell, until recently Labour's Minister for Women - now promoted to something less depressing - has been on a nationwide tea-crawl around the Women's Institutes. Townswomen's Guilds and their ilk. She has been, she says, "listening to women" - an old politician's trick when you desperately want to win votes, but reckon you are probably on a hiding to nothing if you open your mouth.

She listened to women complaining bitterly at their multiple burdens - struggling to care for children and old people while working as well. "They wanted fathers to do more, but they didn't expect the culture to change." She found women full of fear of society falling apart, alarmed at what they saw as a collapsing social order with crime and paedophilia lurking on every street corner. The world was changing too fast and for the worse. Insecurity was everywhere.

Labour hope they can turn the blame for all that onto the Tories - and Tessa Jowell did find evidence that these women did partly blame a decline in community, in schools and the NHS on the Tories. But it still sounds instinctively conservative - a view of the world where change is dangerous and Labour may look like the devil you don't know.

Feminists smugly extol women's infinite superiority: mothers are best, men behave badly. Men are selfish, belligerent, sports-fixated emotional zeros who don't have real friends and don't know they are born. Maternalism, says the myth, would mean peace on earth and bonding with nature. But on this evidence women can be every bit as awful as men - in their own way.

There are, however, glimmers of hope on the horizon for Labour. Young women aged 18-34 are more

likely to vote Labour than young men. But once they reach the 35-55 age group, they become three per cent less likely to vote Labour. Among over-55s, the gender gap yawns into a chasm and 22 per cent more older women vote Conservative.

The great question for Labour's future is this: are young women a new breed who will remain more pro-Labour as they grow older? Or will they turn Conservative, like their mothers and grandmothers before them? Naturally Labour believes that young women are different. Unlike their mothers, they are not frightened of Labour as they cannot remember the last Labour government. The winter of discontent is all Shakespeare to them. Over-mighty trade unions bearing down on a threatened democracy is about as scary to them as the memory of dinosaurs. They will, Labour says, stay Labour as they grow older.

Another straw in the wind: a recent Opinion Research Business poll revealed that one third of 35-44 year old women who voted Conservative last time do not intend to do so this time (though they are still dithering). New polling evidence from the Fawcett Society, to be published next Monday, will suggest that the gender gap is the widest among the lowest social groups - with many more DE women voting Conservative than DE men. AB women and men vote much the same.

However, Labour might draw most hope from across the Atlantic, where women have become markedly more likely to vote Democrat. As the US election gets into its final stretch Bill Clinton is leading among women voters by a spectacular margin. If he wins, it will be because of women, amongst whom he is ahead by 16 per cent, while Dole leads by 6 per cent among male voters.

It was not always so. In the 1950s American women voted as their husbands or fathers told them. That began to change in the 1960s and 70s. Since 1990 the gap has widened sharply. A survey last year found that two thirds of women voted differently from their husbands. Many men don't know that - half of them thought their wives voted as they did. Over the years similar surveys in Britain found men assuming their



wives voted with them, but in the secrecy of the polling booth more women were sneaking off to vote Tory. The treacherous women's vote may explain why so many voters lie to pollsters.

When women voters stayed home in the 1994 US Congressional elections, the Republicans swept in. But women are rallying to Clinton again because of his pro-abortion policy, his brave stand on gun and tobacco controls and women voters like Hillary Clinton. In America, a powerful Democratic women's organisation has

been urging women to get out there and vote, with the rousing slogan, "When Women Vote, Women Win!"

In Britain, however, although more women bother to vote than men, the opposite has been true until now. When women vote, women lose: they vote Tory although Labour has always had apparently a more pro-women platform, from equal opportunities to welfare and a minimum wage. But are British women voters about to follow their American sisters, and for the first time march to the left?

THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES

Logic is the sort of subject that can make you want to grab an accountancy text for light relief. But when Aristotle began the field, he offered an exciting concept of logic as an automatic reasoning machine for generating fresh insights.

First you had to work out which forms of reasoning made sense, and which didn't. If someone says that today's Prime Minister is named John Major, and then picks anybody from the street who happens to share that unfortunate name, and marches that person and all other Major name-alikes down to 10 Downing Street to take over, you would suspect that something had gone seriously awry. But if the reasoning is, say, that all future prime ministers must give the appearance of not being xenophobic maniacs, and then you see Michael Portillo give his Tebbit imitation, and so conclude, mercifully, that Mr Portillo cannot be a future Prime Minister, then you have a sound reasoning pattern of the sort that Aristotle labelled a syllogism.

Working through all the possible three-part syllogisms, Aristotle observed, there are 256 possibilities, only some of which are valid (leading from true premises to true conclusions). When you're arguing with someone, or just trying to

work something out, you look at the list, see which syllogism matches the thoughts you're expressing, and then check if that syllogism is valid or not.

It sounds a roundabout way of working but it's an excellent way to pick up hidden assumptions. It's also convenient for highlighting new knowledge: you scoop through the universe, loading up your syllogisms with interesting data, and listening to see which ones click accurately into place. When Warren Buffet, for example, says that you should invest in a company any idiot can run, because one day any idiot will, then you have a flight path directing you to hunt out a suitable "idiot-proof" company to invest in.

Unfortunately the syllogisms seemed such an impressive way of giving authority to an argument, that they largely ended up being used as a scaffolding for results that had already been worked out, most notably with Thomas Aquinas's 13th-century backing of Catholic theology. Only from the late 19th century was a fresh approach taken, with the development of a symbolic logic that could transcribe thoughts or mathematics with much finer detail.

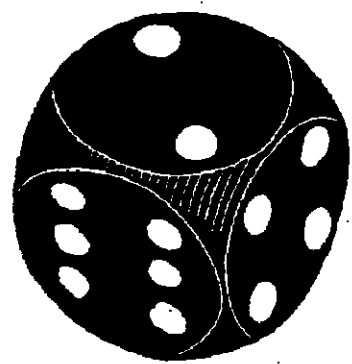
The results seem odd, like a silly bunch of squiggles, at first glance. But the marks made by modern logicians are simply a



WEEK 5 DAY 3
Logic

VISITING LECTURER: David Bodanis

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compact way of notating such assertions as "For any x, if x exists, and if x is the king of France, and if x is bald, then the king of France is bald". (An example used by Bertrand Russell in his analysis of the logic of existence.) It's so pedantic that you can see why working scientists almost never use formal logic to develop new ideas.

But the pedantry reduces what's being said to a clean skeleton core, written in a form that even the lowest-IQ electronic circuits can follow. Computers positively thrive on such exact switching, which is why their early development depended, crucially, on the exploration of Peano, Russell and other logicians early in this century.

Since then logic has developed in many ways. One way of deciding if Ronald Reagan really was responsible for winning the Cold War by raising Pentagon budgets is to explore the logic of "possible worlds", where you run the historical tape forward several times. In one version you would look at the world where an unknown named Lebed led a coup against Gorbachev and matched Reagan's spending; in another, there would be the world where Reagan's nuclear policies led to the war which destroyed 99 per cent of all earth life in the Great Cataclysm of 1985, etc.

A different approach takes on the logic of ordinary reasoning. Don Norman has been especially good at showing how there's one sort of logic, call it engineering logic, where all the dials for a stove's burners should be laid out in a neat straight line, yet there's a second sort of logic, call it "familiarity" logic, where what we really want are for the dials to be arranged in a miniature copy of the burners' layout so we can remember which ones to turn.

None of this would have surprised Aristotle. Along with his writings on syllogisms he explored ordinary reasoning patterns at length: the egocentric world of young people, the prejudice-flatterings of politicians, the reflex for the familiar and comfortable, are all in there. Without realising it, he wasn't that far from the computer. The huge tableau of 256 possible syllogisms he outlined is a crude early precursor of a micro-processor with 256K units of memory. The number's the same, for they're both built up from the same multiplied sequences of rigid switchings and sub-switchings - which is what his logic, with its hunt for an ideal knowledge machine, automatically chugged out those 2,300 years ago.

Tomorrow: Ethics

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Christine Pascal

A brilliant actress on stage, screen and television, Christine Pascal also knew fame as a film director and scriptwriter, in all of which roles she was outstanding.

It must have been difficult to sustain this juggling act, and she was often torn and distracted by their different demands on an energy and an intelligence that seemed inexhaustible. She was a Sagittarius, and she commented in a recent interview: "It's a double sign that has made me up in the air when I'm acting or writing, and very much down to earth when I want to direct a film. Three ways of life difficult to reconcile."

Indeed, her promising acting career suffered from these conflicts, if only because some directors became wary of offering her parts, being unsure of themselves and afraid that the director in Pascal might take over from the actress. On the other hand, it assured her the undivided attention of good filmmakers who had complete mastery of their art.

She was born into a very conventional bourgeois family in that most bourgeois of French cities, Lyons. Her early education was at a convent school, then at the Lycée Saint-Exupéry and the Faculty of Letters at the University of Lyons, where she graduated in Modern Languages and Literature. She was interested in everything – sport, modern dance, poetry, and above all the theatre, and she had a few walk-on parts as an amateur for Roger Planchon. She took courses at the Lyons Conservatoire, where she had the good fortune to be noticed by a great director, Bernard Tavernier, who was to become one of the lodestars of her professional existence.

He cast her in his first film, *L'Horloger de Saint-Paul* (The

Watchmaker of Saint-Paul), in 1973, adapted from Simonon's celebrated psychological thriller. Then in 1974 she was given the starring part of a young Jew in Michel Mitran's *Les Guichets du Louvre* which is a grim depiction of the rounding-up of Jews – men, women and children – in the famous Paris landmark Le Vel d'Hiv, a velodrome from which the Nazi occupation troops, assisted by French police and civilians, sent thousands of victims to the concentration camps and the death chambers. Pascal's success in this demanding role made her decide to devote her life to acting.

Her next part was one that fitted her like a glove, the title Regency prostitute Amélie in Tavernier's beautiful historical evocation of Philippe duc d'Orléans' Regency (1715-23) during the minority of the future Louis XV. The part was written specially for her by a great veteran scriptwriter, Jean Aurenche, and Tavernier himself, and the film was called very suitably *Que la fête commence* (1974) – a kind of triumphant opening to Christine Pascal's own dazzling career.

Tavernier also cast her in the 1976 psychological study *Le Juge et l'assassin*, an exploration of criminal madness that announced Tavernier's major themes: clinical analysis of characters totally opposed to any kind of social restraint. It was set in the 19th century and Pascal felt herself obscurely drawn to the depiction of the sort of rebellious, non-conformist behaviour that was soon to resemble her own, in both private and public life. She became in every sense the "bad girl" of the French cinema, without the loss of any of her radiant personality and her compelling charm.

She went on to make *La*

Meilleure façon de marcher by Claude Miller in 1975, *Les Indiens sont encore loin* by the Swiss director Patricia Moraz (1976), and *L'Impératrice* by Jean-Louis Bertuccelli in 1977, all films in which she could express perfectly her irreverent and anti-social attitude to life.

But she was a woman with a passion for literature and writing. In 1977 she wrote her first screenplay with Bernard Tavernier, *Les Enfants gâtés* ("Spoiled Children"), in which she also acted a part that was her own portrait. Her first single-handed script was *Félicité* (1979), a film whose outrageous self-confession and crude sexual detail was of a delightfully provocative indecency, and shocked bourgeois France and even the hard-boiled professionals of the streets and the cinema studios.

In the same year, she appeared in Andrzej Wajda's *Les Dames de Wilko* and *Paco l'infatigable* by Didier Haudepin. In 1982, she did the unexpected, as usual, and got married, to the Swiss producer Robert Boner, and this brought her acting jobs in Switzerland, again with Patricia Moraz as director, in the 1980 film *Le Chemin perdu*. In 1984, she directed her next film, *La Garce* ("The Slut" – a revealing title), the tale of a young woman (Isabelle Huppert) who falls in love with a policeman (Richard Berry) who had already raped her twice at an interval of seven years.

Pascal kept acting. Diane Kurys' 1982 *Coup de foudre*, Roger Hanin's 1984 *Train d'enfer*, an excellent television movie, *Signé Charlotte* (1984) and several popular reruns. Another Tavernier, the jazz classic *Au cœur de minuit* (Round Midnight) followed in 1985 and *La Traviata* by Yves Boissat in 1987.

But she began to concentrate



'I'm a pessimist': Pascal in the outrageous *Félicité*, 1979

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

more on directing. In 1988, she scripted and directed *Zanzibar*, a virile attack on the French film industry that did nothing to soften her reputation as a "bad girl". But it is a witty defence of the independent auteur filmmaker against the major studios shown to be dominated by hypocrisy and greed.

Her greatest success came in 1991: *Le Petit prince à dix ans*, with Richard Berry and Anémone (a delicious actress who, in many ways, resembles Pascal). It is a movie about a child with a brain tumour. Her mother is an actress, her father a scientist, and the little girl witnesses the emotional conflicts between them, conveyed in an unemotional, unsensational way by

the director. It won the Prix Louis-Delluc and four nominations for Césars (the French Oscars) including one for the best director.

Another variation on the themes of marital struggle and conflicting temperaments was *Adultère, mode d'emploi* ("Adultery, How To Do It") in 1993, with a screenplay written by Pascal and her husband – a titillating detail that again caused raised eyebrows. It was not well received by the general public but it is a wonderfully witty, intelligent picture of domestic urban life in the late 1980s and well worth watching.

Strangely, Christine Pascal's first film, *Félicité*, opened with a suicide. A woman (Pascal)

finds her brother has hanged himself, and she sets out to examine her own life, its excesses, its sexual morbidity, its professional anguish and personal despair – "I'm a pessimist", the radiantly smiling Pascal would proclaim.

In an interview for the intellectual film magazine *Les Cahiers du Cinéma* she talked about *Le Petit prince à dix ans* and said: "It's a confession at the age of 39, when I've lost the insouciance of youth and am beginning to live with the idea of disease and death... So many of my friends have died, of cancer, suicide, AIDS... AIDS has destroyed our relationship with sex, the freedom to be gay, het or bi, no problem, that's what

our generation fought for, and now it means death."

Like the philosopher Gilles Deleuze whom she admired, she left the bright lights of the studio for the darkness of death by jumping out of a window in the psychiatric clinic where she had been having treatment since the middle of August. She had once declared: "I wish to die by my own hand" (she used the German term *freiwilliger Tod* or "voluntary death") "when the right moment presents itself."

James Kirkup
Christine Pascal, actress, scriptwriter and film director, born Lyons 29 November 1953; married 1982 Robert Boner; died Paris 30 August 1996.

Paul Ritchie

Only a handful of Australian painters who left their homeland after the Second World War have remained in permanent exile, and none quite in the manner of Paul Ritchie. Likewise, very few painters have turned from writing to painting and succeeded as Ritchie did.

Once away from Australia in 1953, he settled on the island of Ibiza, where he remained for 20 years. For the first decade he lived entirely off his painting, sometimes by using ingenious stratagems. He would wade into the shallow waters of the island with a roll of water under his arm and show a Spanish businessman or an American tourist what he had been doing, often selling a piece for a ridiculously low price. This would net him enough pocket money for food and cigarettes for a week or two. He was then sharing a remote *fincas* with the Swiss painter Hans Hinterreiter, and both of them were leading lives of almost monkish simplicity.

In 1963 his life changed. He married Diana Haas of Toronto and they moved into Santa Eulalia. Realising that paint was an inadequate medium for all he wanted to express, he had already written his first book, *The Fallow Season* (1961). A collection of vignettes and stories based on a term in England as a master in a reform school, this gave only a hint of the talent that would ignite in his next two books. He began to work with an almost furious intensity.

In 1966 his first novel, *The Protagonist*, appeared, and in 1967, *Confessions of a People Lover*. The two, in very different ways, evoked a shadowy, half-active world reminiscent of



Ritchie: surprising

Kafka and Beckett, writers whom he much admired, but the result is very much his own. Both are studies in negative potency and disaffection. Honey, the anti-hero of the first, is a wandering exile to whom much happens, for whom he cannot understand. The central character in the second is an 80-year-old in an Orwellian futuristic world where the permitted lifespan is 70. Bewildered by what he sees around him, he fights for survival and meaning.

The astonishing thing about both books is that, although their substance is dark and chilling, the language is highly innovative and surprising. Ritchie's prose has an extraordinary density and tactility. He often says that if you can't do anything new in a novel you oughtn't to write the premises of the Thirteenth Symphony. The audience rose to pay homage. There was, of course, the respect that is offered to a national figure on such an occasion. More than that, this man was loved.

Martin Anderson
Vagn Holmboe, composer, born Horsens, Denmark 19 December 1909; married 1933 Meta May Gref (one son, one daughter); died Ramlose, Denmark 1 September 1996.

Ritchie thrived on controversy. He could be maddeningly difficult in discussion and his disposition was often high-pitched and even antic. Yet his judgement concerning painting, old and new, of literature, and of people was often unerring. He had a sharp nose for the genuine. A man of almost Whitmanesque relish for the whole human kingdom, he made friends everywhere, and that empathy is the first and last thing we notice in his paintings, sketches and stories.

It was no accident that, in his later years, he worked as a Samaritan. He was, for ordinary people, as well as for artists in England, Australia and Canada, not only a source of encouragement but an inspiration.

Keith Harrison
Paul Fraser Ritchie, artist and writer, born Sydney, Australia 14 August 1923; married 1963 Diana Haas (one daughter); died London 23 July 1996.

Vagn Holmboe

"His genius truly generates – in his music things are born and they grow. In it, the metamorphosis is not merely ingenuity: it is life, it is tingling proliferation." Thus Robert Simpson on the music of the Danish composer Vagn Holmboe.

Holmboe was a master of world standing, one of the great symphonists. His reputation in Scandinavia has been secure for decades: it took the recording of his 14 symphonies on the Swedish label BIS (a cycle begun in 1992 and finished only in March this year) to alert the wider musical public that here was a composer of the widest international significance.

Vagn Holmboe was born in 1909, in Horsens, the fourth of five brothers (the eldest of whom was the writer and Arabist Knut Holmboe, whose promising career was brought to an abrupt end when he was murdered by Arab brigands in 1930; while his younger brother, Ebbe, active in the Danish resistance during the Second World War, was put to death in a Nazi concentration camp in 1944). In 1926, on the recommendation of Carl Nielsen, Vagn Holmboe was admitted to the Royal Conservatory of Music in Copenhagen, where he studied with Knud Jørgensen and Finn Hoffding, who, a frail but alert 97-year-old, survives him.

In 1930 Holmboe went to study in Berlin, where he had some informal study sessions with Ernst Toch. More important than his contact with Toch

was his meeting with Meta May Graf, a Romanian pianist then studying with Hindemith; they were married in Romania in November 1933. It was a marriage that was to be blissfully successful: 63 years later the Holmboes were as obviously in love as they must have been at the beginning.

Holmboe's first successes with publication and performance came in the early 1930s; he survived the interim through teaching. His career began in earnest in 1939, when he was 30, thanks to a pan-Scandinavian competition for the Royal Danish Orchestra.

Holmboe's Second Symphony had not made it through to the final round. The orchestra's conductor, Egipto Tango, had been absent for the Preliminary rounds of adjudication and on his return asked to see all the scores that had been submitted. Tango obviously realised that the driving energy in its outer movements signalled that something very important had entered Scandinavian music, and Holmboe's *symphony* won first prize.

It was the launch of one of the most productive careers of any 20th-century composer – and among recent prolific composers perhaps the only one of such consistently high quality. The Second Symphony is already the 107th work listed in Paul Rasmussen's chronological catalogue of Holmboe's compositions. Rapports went to press, in January this year, with his list at a total of 368 works;



Holmboe: metamorphosis

Photograph: Anne-Sophie Rubæk

Holmboe meantime kept going. The prize money from the competition allowed the Holmboes to buy a large plot of land, near Ramlose and Lake Arre, about 30 miles outside Copenhagen; there they built a house, cleared the land, planted literally thousands of trees with their own hands (Holmboe was very proud of that), and there they lived for almost half a century.

Holmboe's early compositions show almost nothing of the ethos of Carl Nielsen, whose successor he was soon assumed to be: Holmboe was a very different kind of humanist. Instead, one hears something of

the influence of his close study of various folk musics, not least the Hungarian and Romanian traditions he encountered during the year-long Balkan field-trip undertaken at the time of his wedding; he also closely examined Arabic music.

His interest in folk material endured; in 1988 he published (in English) *Danish Street Cries*, based on research he had begun over 60 years earlier. The effect of such studies on his own work was indirect, as he absorbed it, effectively from folk music the elements that he wanted: the effects of rhythmic and melodic repetition, for instance, and of the movement of dance. In

deed, Holmboe's music of the period reveals just a passing affinity with Bartók.

From the early 1950s Holmboe began to perfect the technique he referred to as "metamorphosis": his musical pattern – a tiny motif, a rhythmic pattern – was now in a state of constant evolution, being developed as soon as it hit the page, generating symphonic momentum on a generous scale. This method of continuous metamorphosis reflected precisely how Holmboe drew the music from within himself: it poured from him, it grew in him as buds grow on trees.

Commentators writing about his music are often thrown back on organic metaphors drawn from natural images, but for the best of reasons: the abiding impression that Holmboe's music leaves is that of a living thing, of something growing, exploring, expanding. Hans Keller once defined the symphony as the large-scale integration of contrasts. Holmboe disagreed: "Immediate contrasts must be subordinated, as the symphonic line should not be blurred or destroyed." Simpson described Holmboe's style with his customary elegance: "Elements that seem similar assume myriad new shapes, flying around, about, and around one another like birds, and as they mingle, so they change again, constantly, organically."

One can trace the evolution of metamorphosis as a structural principle in the symphonies Holmboe composed in the mid-1940s and early 1950s, particu-

larly from No 5 (1944) until its perfection in No 8 (1951). There then came, in his symphonic output, a "vacation" composed only in 1967: 68, and the last in the series, No 13 (the 14th of the official canon, since the *Symphony in Memoriam* of 1954 carries no number), was premiered only in March this year. In these later works, Holmboe's orchestral palette became gradually lighter, more transparent; the power, the sense of movement, of growth, is still there but the pile-driving enthusiasm of the earlier symphonies has been replaced by a free-wheeling motion that is at times almost weightless.

Concurrently with his composing, Holmboe was also one of Denmark's most important teachers. After holding a post at the Institute for the Blind in Copenhagen from 1940 to 1949, he moved to the Royal Conservatory in 1950 and in 1955 was appointed Professor of Theory and Composition, at that point relinquishing his eight-year position as a reviewer for the daily newspaper *Politiken*. His pupils included Per Nørgaard and Ib Nørholm. In 1965 Holmboe gave up his chair and became a full-time composer, supported by his pension and a state grant. In his "retirement" he wrote close on 150 more works, as well as completing three books and contributing essays to a number of publications.

Composing was the essence of Vagn Holmboe. It fuelled him through the series of illnesses that beset his last years. I last

rang him around a week before his death. His wife, Meta, answered the phone. "Vagn is very ill," she said, "but he is still composing." He had all but finished a string quartet, No 21 in the numbered series (since there are 10 quartets before the official No 1), and the ideas were still blossoming in him.

He leaves a corpus of work so large that it is difficult to take adequate stock of it. Besides the symphonies and quartets, there is a handsome number of other orchestral pieces, including 29 concertino works for one or more soloists, a large quantity of chamber and instrumental music, two operas and a ballet and around 60 choral works, several of them of some scale.

Vagn Holmboe was one of the most lovable of men – generous, soft-spoken, utterly un-pompous, always solicitous for the welfare of others. When, at the beginning of March, in the concert hall of Danish Radio, his frail figure stepped forward, supported by a stick, to take a bow after the premiere of the Thirteenth Symphony, the audience rose to pay homage. There was, of course, the respect that is offered to a national figure on such an occasion. More than that, this man was loved.

Martin Anderson
Vagn Holmboe, composer, born Horsens, Denmark 19 December 1909; married 1933 Meta May Gref (one son, one daughter); died Ramlose, Denmark 1 September 1996.

Peter Fraser

Peter Fraser embraced throughout his life a great sense of internationalism to which he applied all his energy. His life's work in the Foreign Office and at the Western European Union consolidated his belief in a wider international self.

Fraser was born in 1920, two years after the end of the First World War. He was the only son of Sir Francis Fraser, a distinguished physician and Professor of Medicine at London University, St Bartholomew's Hospital and later the British Postgraduate Medical School. Fraser remembered his early life with much affection and re-

called that all elements at school, home, neighbours and even table manners had the kind of Edwardian feel so vividly portrayed in *Upstairs Downstairs*. The early years in his Victorian home in Finchley, north London, were full of mischief and activity.

After schooldays at Sherborne School, he finished his education at Zurich and Cambridge universities. His degree in Modern Languages, interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War, was to dictate in time his lifelong dedication to the world of international politics which he loved.

During the war he served in the Scots Guards as Intelligence Officer in the 6th Guards Brigade and was then transferred to French Army HQ and assumed consular duties in Strasbourg until demobilisation in 1946.

He immediately joined the Foreign Office, where the then Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, asked him to join the Brussels Treaty Organisation, which administered the alliance between Britain, France and the Benelux countries; from 1952 onwards he served as its Deputy Secretary General. In 1953 the Western European Union was

established as a consultative forum for defence issues among Western European governments, and Fraser was duly appointed Assistant Secretary General. Subsequently, in 1956, he became Secretary-General of the Saar Commission, the commission which supervised the transfer of the Saarland back to West German rule. Fraser's outstanding organisational ability, his passion for a new challenge, his clear and concise reports on complex issues and meetings, his approach to his staff in handling personal problems, earned him confidence and respect from his colleagues.

Despite his international outlook, Fraser was, however, always drawn to his deep Scottish roots and his beloved Scotland, whether it be admiring the glens and brooks of the countryside or cheering the Scottish rugby team.

His hobby was fly-fishing and, despite his desire for an orderly and comfortable existence, he would stand for hours wading deep in the freezing Scottish lochs or rivers, coaxing and catching the elusive salmon or trout. As with everything, he demonstrated a single-minded passion for the sport which resulted in many a good day's

catch in the worst of conditions. It was this irresistible combination of enthusiasm which made both the man and his life a story everyone he met loved to hear.

Fraser was well liked and, with his extraordinary depth of knowledge and culture and his easy-going manner, he aroused interest in all who knew him. He had the ability to create a real sense of drama and romance in a world full of frustrations and one never left his company without feeling uplifted and with a new perspective on life.

Susan Stoneham
The King's School, Ely
The Christmas term begins today at the King's School, Ely. The Catherine Needham Art Centre will be fully operational; the Technology Centre and the Junior School extension and Music Department will

be opened; and Acremont House together with its new Nursery will be located in enlarged and refurbished accommodation. There will be an Open Morning for prospective sixth-formers and their parents on Saturday 19 October. The Admission of King's and Queen's Scholars will take place at Cathedral Evensong on Friday 23 November; the preacher at the Service will be the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull. The Senior School production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be staged in the Hayward Theatre on 5, 6 and 7 December. The Old Elean Dinner will be held on Saturday 19 October.

Schools
The King's School, Ely
The Christmas term begins today at the King's School, Ely. The Catherine Needham Art Centre will be fully operational; the Technology Centre and the Junior School extension and Music Department will



Fraser: single-minded

Peter Basil Fraser, diplomat, born 21 December 1920; married 1956 Jennifer Burrier (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved); died London 10 August 1996.

BIRTHS
O'NEILL: On 20 August 1996, to Annie (Hall) and Adrian, a son, Joshua Richard.

DEATHS
SMITH: Robert James Lawrence, 74, peacefully on 22 August at Queen Mary's University Hospital, Romford. Funeral Friday 6 September 1pm at Long Dinton Cemetery, Romford. Burial, South Essex Crematorium. Donations please to the Artists General Benevolent Institution c/o Freda W. Prince, 51 Church Street, Romford, Essex. A Requiem Mass will be held on Saturday 7 September, 11.30 am at St Elizabeth of Portugal RC

Births, Marriages & Deaths
Church, The Vineyard, Richmond, with Edgar Fleet, solo tenor.

Announcements for Deaths, Births, Marriages, Deaths, Adoptions, Weddings, Funerals, and Memorials should be sent to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephone 0171 293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171 293 2012) or fax 0171 293 2010, and are charged at 65p a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays
Miss Joan Allen, author of children's books; 72: Professor Anthony Atkinson, Warden, Nuffield College, Oxford; 52: Sir Hubert Bennett, architect; 87: Sir John Charnley, technological consultant; 74: Air Marshal Sir John Cheshire, former Assistant Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Forces, Europe; 54: Sir Michael Day, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow; 69: Mrs Ann Dammert, former director, Runnymede Trust; 66: Mr Mike Capes MP; 44: Miss Milzi Gaynor, actress and dancer; 66: Lord Howell, former government minister; 73: Sir Nicholas Jackson, organist, harpist, chorist and composer; 62: Mr Bill Kenwright, theatrical impresario; 51: Mr Dinsdale Landon, actor; 64: Air Chief Marshal Sir David Lee; 84: Sir William Mars-Jones, former High Court judge; 81: Mrs Elizabeth Pascoe MP; 59: Lord Sandhurst, wartime RAF bomber commander; 76: Mr Michael Stean, chess player; 43: Mr Tim Watson, golfer; 47.

Anniversaries
Births: Robert Raikes, founder of Sunday Schools; 1736; François-

René, Vicomte de Chateaubriand, author and politician; 1768; Anton Bruckner, composer and organist; 1824; Darius Milhaud, composer; 1892; Antonin Artaud, playwright and director; 1896; Mary Renault (Mary Challen), novelist; 1905. Deaths: Edward Hagerup Grieg, composer; 1907; Albert Schweitzer, organist, doctor and missionary; 1965. On this day, the world's first rally of Boy Scouts was held at the Crystal Palace, near London; 1909. Aunwary was liberated by the Allies; 1944; Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands abdicated in favour of her daughter, Juliana; 1948; the Forth Road bridge was opened,

1964; in Rio de Janeiro, the US ambassador to Brazil was kidnapped by terrorists; 1969. Today is the Feast Day of St Boniface I, pope, St Ida of Herzfeld, Saints Marcellus and Valerian, St Marinus of San Marino, St Rosalia, St Rose of Viterbo and St Ulman of Andriacian.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Portsmouth International Airshow Exhibition 1996, Portsmouth, Hampshire. The Princess Royal, President, Devon: International Conference on Rehabilitation Care at Staphord University, Loughborough Campus, Leicestershire. The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Portsmouth International Airshow Exhibition 1996, Portsmouth, Hampshire. The Princess Royal, President, Devon: International Conference on Rehabilitation Care at Staphord University, Loughborough Campus, Leicestershire. The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Portsmouth International Airshow Exhibition 1996, Portsmouth, Hampshire. The Princess Royal, President, Devon: International Conference on Rehabilitation Care at Staphord University, Loughborough Campus, Leicestershire.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment presents the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London.

Lectures
The Gallery: David Saunders, "Carl André and the Poetry of Materialism", 1pm.

هذا من الأصل

**Paul
Ritchie**

[illegible]

Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING		DOLLAR			D-MARK	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1959	5-8	5-8	1000	—	0.0277
Canada	24675	11-3	50-52	13887	2-1	2-4
France	33259	10-13	48-50	13887	26-28	29-30
Germany	75871	11-13	50-52	60021	26-28	29-30
Italy	26281	11-13	48-50	15014	44-46	47-48
Japan	17123	10-13	48-50	15014	44-46	47-48
UK	12382	11-1	48-50	12710	18-20	20-25
Belgium	42366	11-1	48-50	30350	18-45	178-147
Denmark	12382	10-13	48-50	12710	18-20	20-25
Netherlands	20262	10-13	48-50	12710	18-20	20-25
Ireland	66659	7-9	30-31	16386	47	12-17
Spain	19595	21-31	105-112	25838	23-27	24-31
Sweden	19595	21-31	105-112	25838	23-27	24-31
Switzerland	12382	10-13	48-50	12710	18-20	20-25
Australia	19591	20-31	67-85	12231	19-21	54-56
Hong Kong	19591	20-31	67-85	12231	19-21	54-56
Singapore	22037	43-57	103-98	14447	30-32	88-90
New Zealand	22037	43-57	103-98	14447	30-32	88-90
South Africa	22037	43-57	103-98	14447	30-32	88-90
India	22037	0-0	0-0	14081	41-43	105-88

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Starting	Dollar	Country	Starting	Dollar
Argentina	15564	05987	Nigeria	12544	73800
Australia	85378	10457	Onion	09308	03850
Brazil	594	00000	Pakistan	26100	35304
China	18021	83001	Philippines	41209	25700
Egypt	53406	30001	Pineapples	23836	32100
Finland	7883	45300	Poland	51078	00000
France	85333	28	Portugal	84203	18400
Greece	30712	23040	South Africa	70388	44985
India	100	00000	Taiwan	40329	00000
Japan	00078	02388	UAE	57807	35730

Note: Forward rates quoted higher to low rate as at a discount (debit) from spot rate; items quoted low to high are at a premium (credit to low rate). *Dollar rates cited all approximate. For the latest rates, please contact our office.

Tourist Rate

E Buys	E Buys	E Buys
Australia(Dollars)	19,125	78,885
Austria(Schilling)	15,550	2,250
Belgium(Francs)	40,550	392,000
Canada(Dollars)	2,050	11,700
Cyprus(Pounds)	6,055	6,055
Denmark(Danish)	3,715	236,000
France(Francs)	15,550	155,050
Italy(Lira)	6,930	0,540
Japan(Yen)		
New Zealand(Dollars)		2,600
Norway(Kröner)		37,500
Portugal(Pescas)		22,000
Spain(Pesetas)		765,250
Sweden(Crown)		10,400
Switzerland(Francs)		1,725
Turkey(Lira)		203,000
United States(Dollars)		1,550

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Bare	5.76%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	6.75%	Discount	0.50%
Finance		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	6.00%	Discount	
Inter-venture	3.55%	Canada		Gov Funds	5.50%	Discount	
Italy		Prime	7.00%	Spain		Discount	
Discount	8.25%	Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo	7.25%	Switzerland	3.00%
Netherlands		Discount		Sweden		Discount	
Advances	2.50%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Avg)	5.25%	Lombard	4.25%

Bond Yields

Country	8 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	8 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
US	77%	72%	77%	73%	Netherlands	51%	52	61	63
UK	74%	71%	69%	75%	Spain	52%	60	105%	105%
Japan	55%	52	21	30	Italy	51%	81	91%	97
Australia	57%	73	0	81	Belgium	5	53	7	84
Germany	58%	57	65%	64	Sweden	0%	73	6	83
France	54%	54	22%	62	ECU/DM	0	58	71%	69

Sources: BEC Markets Research. *Yields calculated on local basis. ** Durates now benchmark

Money Market Rates

	O'Night	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	5 1/2	7 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Sterling CDs	5 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Local Authority Deps	5 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Discount Market Deps	5 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Treasury Bills (Buy)	5 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Dollar CDs	5 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
5 Year	5 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low	EndContract traded	Open interest	
Long Gilt	(Sep 96)	106.30	107.08	106.49	29918	108414
German Bund	(Sep 96)	92.24	92.24	92.16	5	13948
US Treasury	(Sep 96)	92.20	92.20	92.10	0	54218
Italian Bond	(Sep 96)	76.56	75.76	75.16	43322	23551
3M Sterling	(Dec 96)	94.27	94.27	94.24	6703	17903
3M Eurosterling	(Dec 96)	94.27	94.27	94.24	16403	29203
3M Eurodollar	(Dec 96)	95.25	95.25	95.24	144	743
3M Eurodollar	(Mar 97)	95.24	95.24	95.23	1039	30755
E.C.U.	(Sep 96)	96.78	96.78	96.73	26644	57622
E.C.U.	(Sep 96)	96.85	96.85	96.83	125	8762
Euro SFr	(Sep 96)	95.64	95.64	95.61	19	273
FTSE 100	(Sep 96)	97.81	97.82	97.79	2305	20250
FTSE 100	(Sep 96)	35700	35840	35400	1730	56358
DAX 100	(Sep 96)	3570	3570	3560	376	100
DAX 100	(Sep 96)	91.95	91.42	91.30	1992	472

Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price: 3855.00		closing offer price		Call/Put
Series	3800	3850	3900	Total/Vols
Sep	85/14	49/29	23/55	8/95
Oct	108/38	75/54	47/77	27/108
Nov	131/54	100/72	72/85	48/122
Dec	159/88	125/87	97/110	72/136

Commodities

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange					
Items	Cash	3 mos	Volume	LME Stocks	chg
Aluminum HGVHS-25	6065.67	7500	535300	-	3650
Aluminum Alloy	528-8	1000-330	185	+ 3300	+ 220
Copper A	1820-5	2000-30	7435	27275	+ 50
Lead	8255-45	80-9	1409	1005	+ 100
Nickel	7030-40	7500-40	2481	36070	+ 85
Ti	5885-25	5825-25	4754	1040	+ 40
Zinc	1009-9	1024-5	19853	88495	+ 650
Settlement Estimates	1200	1200	14007	104-35	
				Settle volume & change	
				1200000	12.748 3 Sep. 96

PRECIOUS METALS			
per troy oz	\$	£	Coin
Gold	1,250.00	1,000.00	1000
Silver	150.00	120.00	1000
Palladium	1,000.00	800.00	1000
Platinum	1,000.00	800.00	1000

Platinum	582.25	222.00	Drumlin	403	257	Kingsnott	3942.96	2474.08
Palladium	123.35	50.00	Drumlin	204	130	Sos	3594.04	2625.56
Rhodium	390.00	150.00	Drumlin	33	66	Nicholson	3994.04	2625.56
Gold Bull	382.20	240.05	Drumlin	52	23	Anglo Ltd		
Bauer Spg & Co								

AGRICULTURAL									
Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Potatoes	
CEP	2/ton	CEP	5/tonne	CEP	5/tonne	CEP	2/tonne	CEP	2/tonne
Dec	589	Jan	616	Rep	6890	Nov	72.40		
Mar	592	Mar	618	Rep	6900	Dec	72.40	Feb	23
Jun	591	Jun	532	Jan	10510	Apr	71.90	Apr	10
Jul	15,212	Jul	5,462	Jul	80	Jul	100	Jul	147

Water Supply		Fragrant	
LCE	Silence	LCE	Silence
Q1	2000	Q1	2000

[illegible]

Brak Crude	(Muntal)	Gase
IPE	5.30pm	Pchg Yr ago IPE

[illegible]

100 Largest Insurance Funds

[illegible]

Morgan may have broken SIB rules

JILL TREANOR
Banking Correspondent

Peter Young, the Deutsche Morgan Grenfell fund manager at the centre of investigations into irregularities involving £1.4bn worth of funds, vastly exceeded regulatory limits for the amount which could be invested in unquoted securities.

This emerged yesterday as it became apparent that the hole left in funds managed by Morgan Grenfell Asset Management on behalf of 90,000 investors may exceed £150m by some margin.

Under guidelines issued by the Securities and Investments Board, unit trusts may normally invest only 10 per cent of their funds in unlisted securities.

But up to 28 per cent of one of his funds, Morgan Grenfell European Growth Trust, was invested in unquoted securities at the end of May, according to the unit trust's annual report.

The annual report also appeared to show that the holdings by the trust in unquoted and quoted companies exceeded regulatory guidelines than investments should amount to no more than 10 per cent of their issued share capital.

Fund managers may be able to exceed their 10 per cent limit if they can prove to their trustees - in this case the newly appointed Royal Bank of Scotland - that the companies in which they are taking stakes

are in the process of gaining stock market listings through privatisations or flotations.

Sources close to Morgan Grenfell insisted last night that this was the case with the funds managed by Mr Young.

Morgan Grenfell had continued to market the once-highly successful fund, along with two others, amassing 90,000 investors in them, before the three were suspended on Monday because of "possible irregularities on certain unquoted securities".

Those investors, in limbo yesterday, looked set to receive some good news by today with Morgan Grenfell expected to resume quotations in the funds.

"We are working as quickly as we can to get them up and running as soon as possible," said an Imro spokeswoman, Judy Delaforce.

"We have assurances from the company that no investors will lose their money. No unit trust has ever been declared in default," she said.

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management said on Monday it would meet its liabilities on any of the irregularities identified, which are believed to be substantial with sources insisting that losses of at least £150m may have to be footed by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as a result of problems with valuing these unquoted securities.

Highly regarded Mr Young, 38, ran another of the funds in

which dealings were suddenly halted at the start of the week.

Dublin-listed Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth Fund.

Another manager, Stewart Arner, who has not been suspended, ran the other troubled fund - Morgan Grenfell Europa. But other heads may yet roll, sources said, already expected bonuses to be cut. Europa was the top performing fund last year, according to performance measurement firm Micropal. But by August this year it had crashed down through Micropal's league tables to 95th place.

Morgan Grenfell European Growth was second to Europa in 1995 but had fallen to 127th at the start of August, giving a negative return of close to 10 per cent.

Peter Jeffries, the managing director of Fund Research Limited, said he thought the European Growth fund had started building its exposure to unquoted securities last autumn.

"It has been significantly reduced since the annual report at the end of May," Mr Jeffries said, noting that only in the last several months had the fund's performance been hit.

"The proportion in unlisted securities started to build up in August last year. I was surprised about the proportion invested ... but understood it was a short-term phenomenon."



In the spotlight: Peter Young is helping Imro investigators unravel what happened to two funds. Photograph: Investment Week

Fund manager asked for removal of trustees

Speculation is rife concerning Peter Young's role in replacement of GA last June. Nic Cicutt reports

Peter Young, European fund manager and a director at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, requested the "re-employment", or resignation, of the suspended UK funds' trustees, the insurer General Accident, in late June this year.

The usual reason for the retirement of a fund's trustee, which can take place at any time, is that the fund manager believes that trustee services can be obtained more cheaply or efficiently elsewhere. General Accident is believed to have been replaced as trustee by Royal Bank of Scotland.

One City fund manager, who would not be named, said: "It is

hypothetically possible for someone to sack trustees in order to cover something up or because of other disputes with them. But this is unlikely because they would soon be found out."

As hundreds of worried Morgan Grenfell investors jammed the fund manager's switchboard for the second day running, the company gave out scant details of events leading to the suspension of its two UK unit trusts and one Dublin fund.

Meanwhile, speculation centred on the health of Mr Young, who is currently suspended

from work by his employers.

Mr Young, 38, has been helping Imro, the fund managers' regulator, unravel what happened to the Morgan Grenfell European Growth and Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth funds, the two trusts he managed.

One financial adviser, who would not be named, was yesterday telling his clients, many of whom contacted him as well as Morgan Grenfell, that Mr Young "has retired due to ill health". It is believed this information was passed to him by company sources.

Mr Young was described by colleagues as a hard-working and conscientious fund manager. Married with two children, he has in the past impressed observers with his fund management style. In June, he was awarded the prestigious European Investment Manager of the Year award, by *Investment Week*. Morgan Grenfell scooped a separate award as Fund Manager of the Year.

Lawrence Gosling, editor of *Investment Week*, said: "My experience of him is that despite the fall in the value of the

funds he managed, there was no sense of panic at all. He told us that he expected it to happen and had extremely good reasons for it. "Either he was very cool or he was a consummate liar."

An Oxford University mathematics graduate, Mr Young joined Equity & Law, the life company, in 1980, in order to train as an actuary. Two years later, before completing his training, he switched to the company's fund management side, where he rapidly rose through the ranks.

One former colleague, who worked alongside him for several

years, said: "He was very competent, liked by those whom he worked alongside and he took his investment responsibilities here very seriously. He was very diligent. I am very surprised to read of what happened."

Mr Young, who even then specialised in European equities, was headhunted in 1990 to join Mercury Asset Management, which he left two years later for Morgan Grenfell. He joined the European investment team at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, which has £70bn under management.

MGAM, which is headed by Keith Percy, operates through five separate subsidiaries, including the international division.

The international division is headed by Glyn Owen, and has about £10bn under management. Mr Young directly managed about £1.25bn in assets on behalf of more 70,000 investors, while a further £1.33bn was in the other suspended fund, Morgan Grenfell Europa.

In the past year, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, as the company has renamed itself, has acquired a name for itself as one of the most aggressive operating in the City.

He also launched an attack on Government's "abysmally low" level of spending on roads and transport. If spending continued at this rate, it would damage the competitiveness of UK industry, he said. It was not good enough to expect the Government's private finance initiative to bail the country out.

Investment column, page 18

Mercedes warns UK is scaring away investors

ELISABETH KLEIN
and DIANE COYLE

Britain's lack of commitment to European Monetary Union is scaring away potential investors, claims Helmut Werner, chief executive of the German car giant Mercedes-Benz.

Mr Werner said yesterday: "We can't plan to invest in Britain within the next few years. But I am totally convinced that if the UK takes part in a single European currency, Britain will be a very, very interesting country for Mercedes to invest in."

He warned that earnings on investments in Britain, if it stayed out of the single currency, would become much more unpredictable than in countries belonging to EMU.

This would have damaging consequences for British companies as well, he believes. "UK suppliers would become incal-

culable to us. Due to possible ups and downs of the pound we would not know how much their products will cost us over a longer period. A free floating pound wouldn't support the British economy."

Since last year he, like a lot of other German managers, has become sensitised to currency risks. The big losses Daimler-Benz, the Mercedes parent, had to face last year were influenced to an extent by the strong mark.

Mr Werner said: "We Germans suffer from a strong mark for 11 months of the year. It is only in the 12th month when we go for cheap holidays in Italy that we are happy about our hard currency."

Mr Werner began to "globalise" Mercedes production in 1993, starting with its commercial vehicle division. The company plans to do the same with its passenger cars side.

He would prefer a united European money policy. France, pushing strongly towards Monetary Union, has already profited. Mercedes has decided to manufacture its new low-priced "smart-car" in France.

But Mr Werner, boss of nearly 200,000 Mercedes employees, emphasised what Britain can offer inward investors. "In the last 10 years the deregulated British economy has undergone some very positive developments, which have made it a very interesting market for us to invest in."

His remarks coincided with the release of new research showing that a quarter of Britain's manufacturing output is produced by foreign-owned companies, up from less than one-fifth in 1986. The increase has been driven by European investment, with EU, Swiss and Swedish firms accounting for two-fifths of the total.



Helmut Werner: Hard to use suppliers if UK outside EMU

The research, by Professor Steve Davies at the University of East Anglia, shows the Japanese account for only 7 per cent of total manufacturing output, and is heavily concentrated in a few industries. US multinationals remain most significant. The number of big EU multinationals producing in Britain increased from 13 to 27 between 1986 and 1993. There are now 15 European firms in Britain's top 100 companies.

Of tel attacks BT in competition row

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

The simmering row between BT and the industry watchdog, Of tel, over allegations of anti-competitive behaviour exploded yesterday when the regulator, Don Cruickshank, rapped the company for making "misleading or just plain inaccurate" claims about rivals.

In an unusually strongly worded statement Mr Cruickshank issued an order forcing BT to tighten up the activities of its marketing team. He said there was "a very serious gap between BT's statements of good intent about trading fairly and statements made by customer-facing staff which are unsubstantiated".

Of tel investigated a formal complaint by the Consumers' Association after *Which?* magazine published transcripts of interviews with staff in BT stores

and on special phone lines set up to deal with customers contemplating switching to cable firms. The watchdog said out of a total of 48 interviews, 30 were "unsatisfactory from a fair trading point of view".

Mr Cruickshank has previously welcomed moves by BT to beef up staff training and had been particularly pleased with the creation of a special department to deal with compliance matters. But yesterday he said these actions had not been enough, accusing the company of neglecting internal compliance procedures. A lapse which he said "favours BT by frustrating customer choice".

While admitting to "occasional lapses" by staff, BT vehemently denied it had deliberately misled customers. A spokesman said it had only detected two "genuine" occasions in the *Which?* evidence where employees had overstepped the mark.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3855.90	-28.50	-0.7	3918.70	3632.30
FTSE 250	4395.40	-28.50	-0.6	4588.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1930.90	-18.90	-0.7	1960.50	1816.60
FT All Share	2158.21	-6.29	-0.3	2244.36	1954.06
FT All Share	1908.89	-18.13	-0.7	1936.24	1791.55
New York	5632.85	+16.84	+0.3	5778.00	5032.94
Tokyo	20198.15	+91.04	+0.5	22866.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	10957.18	-149.99	-1.3	11594.99	10204.87
Frankfurt	2510.77	-22.11	-0.9	2593.49	2253.36

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields	
1 Month	1 Year	1 Year	1 Month	1 Year	1 Year
5.69	6.00	7.91	5.69	6.00	7.91
5.34	6.28	6.86	5.34	6.28	6.86
0.53	0.59	3.00	0.53	0.59	3.00
3.09	3.31	6.40	3.09	3.31	6.40

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	Pound	Dollar	
1.5679	0.6378	1.5574	1.5679	0.6378	1.5574
1.5579	0.6421	1.5558	1.5579	0.6421	1.5558
2.3274	0.4844	2.2787	2.3274	0.4844	2.2787
171.265	111.113	152.235	171.265	111.113	152.235
85.8	0.3	84.8	85.8	0.3	84.8

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THE INDEPENDENT
section two

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City has nothing to fear from monetary union

COMMENT

The City is an ingenious place. It is no accident that the main market in bond futures is in London, not Frankfurt, for London is where it is done best.

Michael Cassidy, chairman of the policy and resources committee of the Corporation of London, is a fine fellow in many respects, but he really does talk a lot of nonsense when he sounds off about the danger European Monetary Union poses to the City's position as Europe's pre-eminent financial centre. He's been at it again this week, warning that the new settlement system for large scale transactions in the euro could cost the City thousands of jobs.

Now there is no doubt that a major league row is going on behind the scenes between the likely "ins" and the "outs" about access to this system. The two most committed ins, Germany and France, want the City to pay more for using Target (the system's acronym) than the ins. They also want the European Central Bank to charge the City more for the provision of short term liquidity in the euro. The likely outs, led by Britain, argue that this is discriminatory and against both the spirit and the letter of the Treaty of Rome. Plainly, this is an issue of some importance, otherwise the Bank of England would not be in there arguing about it at single currency meetings being held under the umbrella of the European Monetary Institute.

But its significance is actually more political than commercial. The ins have taken the view that anyone not wholly with them is against them and they are determined to penalise these wayward souls on every available front. This is but one of them. Exag-

geration? Just a little, but not much. The "them and us" mentality seems to permeate every aspect of negotiations about monetary union.

With Target, there is also a subtext. By dis-advantaging London, there's just a chance, German and French policy makers believe, that financial markets might start gravitating to Frankfurt and Paris. This is what Mr Cassidy is talking about when he warns about the threat to jobs in the City. In practice, however, it is highly unlikely that a marginal difference in the cost of settlement is going significantly to alter London's competitive position. Alternative methods of providing adequate liquidity will be found. Indeed, because London will not be obliged to meet the stringent capital requirements of the ins, there may actually be some advantage in being out.

The City is an ingenious place. It is no accident that the main market in bond futures is in London, when logically it ought to be in Frankfurt, for London is where the traders are and like to live, this is where the systems and infrastructure exist, and this as a consequence is where it is done best.

The City has always thrived because it is out rather than in. It has a thousand year tradition of loyalty to none but itself. And that is also why, once the great bandwagon of monetary union starts rolling down the runway proper, sterling will become as much an irrelevance for the City as it is for the rest of Europe - an exotic little inflation prone cur-

rency. The City has survived and prospered on events far more traumatic than the arrival of the euro. For the City at least, Monetary Union is not much of an issue at all.

A blow to the reputation of Finsbury Square

This time it isn't possible to blame rogue traders in far away places. This time there is no fraud, in the generally accepted sense of the word, for senior managers to excuse themselves with. And this time, unlike the recent Jardine Fleming case where the financial damage was limited to just £12m, we are talking about a very substantial hole in the accounts of what are supposed to be bullet proof unit and investment trusts. It would be hard to imagine a more damaging blow to the reputation of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, and the City's investment management community more generally, than the events unfolding round at Finsbury Circus.

Peter Young was an apparently able and highly ambitious young fund manager, trained in the London tradition for the highest standards of integrity and diligence. We don't know the full story yet, but it seems almost unbelievable that in his search for performance he could have breached his trading limits in the manner now suspected. More unbelievable still is that he could have done so without his superiors noticing.

The damage here is much more than one of embarrassment. Morgan Grenfell, and more particularly its parent, Deutsche Bank, are going to have to compensate investors in the three trusts for anything up to £150m. It scarcely needs saying that staff can kiss goodbye to their bonuses next year. The questions come thick and fast. How could Mr Young's search for performance have allowed him so to stray into such an array of companies of such obviously questionable quality? Even accepting that he thought many of his unquoted investments were in companies about to come to market, how could he have so clearly breached established rules and practices on investing in untraded securities? More seriously, what were the failures in control and supervision that allowed him to do so? It is already clear that the buck cannot stop with Mr Young. Other heads must roll.

If there is a lesson in this miserable affair, it is the old one - that organisations which encourage the development of powerful egos and star employees only have themselves to blame when things go wrong. The irony is that Morgan Grenfell, which has fallen victim to this trait once before, on that occasion on its corporate finance side, should not have learnt it. The Guinness affair is still, after all, less than 10 years old. The set and the cast are different, but the play seems to be essentially the same - an out of control star employee.

Stagecoach ride will surely end in tears

With his casual dress code, Celtic origins and pillaging instincts, Brian Souter, the chairman of Stagecoach, probably went down a storm over an acquittal or two with the men from Sweden, the biggest bus operator in the Nordic region.

Yesterday, as he added the business to Stagecoach's ever-expanding empire, Mr Souter was all praise for the Swedes. Why, he might even arrange a Viking landing party to run operations here since Swedes employ fewer staff per bus than even Stagecoach.

Those efficiency levels presumably explain why Mr Souter is paying top dollar for the company since the price tag, including debt, of £222m looks pretty fancy for a business with taxable profits of less than £10m. Swedes is but one more staging post along the way to Mr Souter's goal of quadrupling turnover to £2bn. This, and last month's still more ambitious £825m acquisition of the train leasing company Porterbrook, are being financed with an avalanche of Stagecoach paper and extended borrowing facilities.

And yet, the markets haven't even blinked, marking the share price up relentlessly. Stagecoach trades on a multiple of 27.5 times earnings which is absurd for a bus operator. Shareholders may be enjoying the ride for now. But experience tells us that such helter-skelter expansion will surely end in tears.

Profit warnings: Food retailer's troubles knock high street shares and telecoms manufacturer predicts further slump

Stores suffer as Iceland earnings dive

MICHAEL HARRISON

Shares in food retailers were hit badly yesterday as the frozen foods chain Iceland repeated its profits warning for the year and reported a higher-than-expected fall in earnings in the first half. Pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of June were down by 11.3 per cent to £39.8m - the first profits fall in Iceland's 25-year history - compared with market expectations of just over £30m. In July Iceland forecast that first-half profits would be about 10 per cent lower.

The worse-than-expected profit figures were accompanied by a warning that like-for-like sales to date in the second half were down by 0.5 per cent, while profits would be further affected by Iceland's investment programme and its Price-watch campaign.

Analysts immediately downgraded their profit forecasts for the full year as shares in Iceland and other High Street supermarket groups tumbled. Henderson Crosthwaite has lowered its profit forecast for the

year from £63m to under £60m while BZW has gone from £59m this year to £57m and from £55m to £51.5m for 1997.

Shares in Iceland fell by nearly 10 per cent from 101.5p to 92p, dragging the food retailing sector with them. Worst hit were rival low-cost supermarket chains Kwik Save, down 19.5p at 372p, and the newly-listed Somerfield, off 2.5p at 155p.

Since Iceland's initial profit warning on 18 July, its shares have fallen by 35 per cent. The group blamed the first profit warning on poor sales, price wars and the cost of its store refurbishment programme.

Yesterday there was more bad news in the shape of a warning that the Price-watch campaign would bite into margins in the second half while profits would be further affected by loss of sales caused by temporary closure of stores for refurbishment.

Malcolm Walker, chairman, said: "Naturally, it is disappointing to report the first profit setback in Iceland's history. The UK food retail market is the most advanced and fiercely competitive



Cold war: Iceland says price competition is party to blame Photograph: Emma Boam

in the world and our business has encountered unprecedented pressures during 1996."

He pledged that Iceland's recovery plan, including 130 new product lines, 30 store openings this year and the refurbishment of a further 150 stores next year, would restore real sales growth and returns to shareholders. The interim dividend was raised by 9 per cent to 1.8p.

But analysts chose to focus on the shorter term outlook and the trading outlook. David Stoddart of Henderson Crosthwaite said: "We had all been pointed in the direction of lower first-half profits but it is a disappointment that the second-half performance will also be affected. There could potentially be quite a hit on operating margins in the second half."

Telspec forecast to slide £6m into red

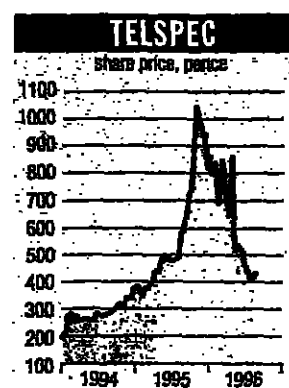
PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Frank Hackett-Jones, founder and non-executive chairman of Telspec, saw the value of his stake nearly halve to £35m yesterday after the Kent-based telecommunications equipment maker issued its second profit warning in four months.

The forecast of a slide £6m into the red is expected to lead to shareholder pressure for a strengthening of the board, and in the City questions were being asked about the future of Dr Garth Riley, the chief executive.

The shares slumped 45 per cent to 222.5p compared with more than £10 at the end of last year when Mr Hackett-Jones' controlling stake was worth £160m. In 1994, Telspec was floated as one of the hottest new issues of the year.

Dr Riley warned in May that



interim profits would be worse than expected, leading Credit Lyonnais Laing, the company brokers, to cut its profit forecast to a profit of under £2m before tax. But under a new finance director, Alan Harrold, brought in earlier this year, Telspec found the problems revealed in May were far worse than expected.

The main reason for the unexpected deterioration into a pre-tax loss is that the management has been caught out in component purchasing, as a sharp increase in sales left the production side of the business short of supplies at a time of booming prices. This left Telspec buying electronic components at high prices on the spot market.

Dr Riley said the results for the six months to June would be "adversely affected by a number of temporary factors". Turnover was 25 per cent higher than a year earlier at £35m, but the difficulties had been "significantly worse than originally expected".

Other factors blamed in the May profits warning were lower than expected sales in the Middle East and Asia Pacific, an order downturn in Australia and delays at a new factory in Turkey.

IN BRIEF

• The Inland Revenue unveiled new tax returns to be sent to 8.5 million taxpayers from April, which it claimed were "probably the best in the world". The forms, designed after extensive tests, were said to be easier to understand and fill in. However, Ernst & Young, the tax advisers, said the new forms would be a "culture shock" to many. The company attacked Revenue plans to fine taxpayers £100 a time if they fail to complete the forms on time.

• Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said after the regular monthly meeting at the European Monetary Institute that he had noted no recent improvements in prospects for nations meeting the convergence criteria to join Europe's planned currency union. Asked whether he thought that prospects for EMU were improving, he replied: "That would be too strong to say."

• German industrial output rose for the fifth month running in July, suggesting that the economic recovery is continuing. Although still 1.6 per cent below its level a year earlier, pan-German output rose 0.5 per cent during the month. For the first time since March the increase was bigger in the west than the east, 0.5 per cent compared to a 5.5 per cent drop in the eastern Länder, or states. The main area of strength was output of consumer durables.

• Yorkshire Water has reacted to shareholder criticism of its board structure by appointing two non-executive directors, Derek Roberts, the next chairman of Yorkshire Building Society, and David Perry, chairman of Waddington plc. Yorkshire Water was criticised when it emerged that chairman Brandon Gough would only be working two days a week, and also that he would be based in Kent.

• Trading volumes on Life set a record for the month of August, traditionally quiet. There was a 23 per cent increase on August 1995, with 12.43 million futures and options contracts traded.

• Midlands Electricity said its Midlands Gas subsidiary will enter the second phase of domestic gas market competition in the south of England in early 1997.

• Auditors are being urged to adopt "an attitude of professional scepticism" towards clients as part of the Institute of Chartered Accountants' attempt to crack down on fraud. The advice is contained in *Towards Better Auditing*, a booklet published by the institute's audit faculty with the aim of raising the standards of small and medium-sized firms.

US likely to lift interest rates

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Fresh signs of growth in America's manufacturing industry cemented expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise US interest rates later this month.

Yesterday's figures gave financial markets, already nervous about military action in Iraq, an attack of the collywobles. The Dow Jones index fell more than 50 points during the morning, triggering the New York Stock Exchange's curbs on automatic trades, although it recovered to just 13 points down at 5,603.63 by late morning. In London, the FT-SE 100 index ended nearly 29 points lower at 3,855.9. Shares also fell elsewhere in Europe.

Oil prices rose to their highest since April as a result of America's intervention in the Middle East, with the benchmark Brent crude future price up 79 cents to \$22.78 a barrel. The National Association of Purchasing Managers reported an increase in US manufacturing activity in August. Its index climbed from just above the 50 "boom-bust" threshold in July to 52.6 last month, a little higher than expected. Output,

orders, employment and price components of the index all rose.

Separate figures showed a further increase, of 0.2 per cent, in the index of leading indicators for the economy.

Many Wall Street analysts now expect a big increase in employment last month to be reported in Friday's jobs report, the most influential of the monthly economic statistics.

Federal Reserve officials recommended an increase of a quarter to a half point in interest rates last month in reaction to signs that the economy was gathering pace rather than slowing down as expected. Their advice was ignored by the Fed governors on its policy-making Open Markets Committee but analysts do not think this will happen again at the 24 September meeting.

The Fed meeting at the end of the month will take place a day after Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, are due to hold their next meeting. City experts think there is a chance Mr Clarke could decide on a base rate cut at today's meeting, before the window of opportunity closes.

disciplinary action against Peter Baring, chairman of Barings, or Andrew Tuckey, his deputy. Several more junior executives have been disciplined.

Nick Durlacher, chairman of the SFA, said he did not want to stop senior managers delegating or to make them take responsibility for the actions of all their employees. "But we will require that the responsibility be pinned on somebody."

SFA faces flak over chief executive rules

PETER RODGERS
and JILL TREANOR

The Securities and Futures Authority is expected to come under fire from senior members following proposals yesterday that will make it easier to prosecute chief executives of troubled firms such as Barings.

The SFA yesterday proposed reversing the burden of proof

in its disciplinary procedures, by forcing chief executives to show they have done everything they can to avoid the problems endangering their businesses.

But many chief executives are concerned that this could give an open-ended responsibility for everything that happens in their firms, whether or not it was within their control.

The controversial draft rules have been drawn up in re-

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- Ben Elton 'The'
- Barry Cryer 'The Bedouin Mr'
- Gordon Brittas 'Sharing the Dream'
- Various Inc. Lily Tomlin, Stephen Fry 'Just for Laughs'
- Frankie Howard 'Frankie's on'
- Amnesty International 'The Best of the Best'
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Token 5

THE INDEPENDENT

business

Blue Circle rides out stormy markets

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Blue Circle, the cement, heating and bathrooms group, at last seems to be perfecting the ability to ride out the wildly different markets in which it operates. In the mature UK cement market, which it dominates, the group suffered a further 6.7 per cent fall in volumes in the first half of 1996, only beating the market average by a percentage point or so because of exports.

By contrast, cement volumes jumped 26 per cent in Malaysia in July and in Chile Blue Circle managed to sell 48 per cent more ready-mixed concrete in the first six months of the year.

So a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £116m in the half year to June, on turnover up just 4 per cent, was a respectable result. The group is also making a decent fist of tackling stagnant building markets in Europe.

The biggest boost to the figures came from the boilers and radiators business, which was hammered by weak European housing markets last year. Cost savings from the £55m restructuring announced at the end of 1995 delivered all of the bounce in operating profits from £100,000 to £9m in the half year, although the comparison was flattered by one-off charges last time. With the German boiler and radiator market down 10-13 per cent, the trading environment is not propitious, so the full £25m benefit of the expected efficiencies will be important in the 1997 figures.

In the UK cement business, Blue Circle is dealing with maturity head on through a £330m investment programme. While adding no new capacity, the new plants should improve efficiency. If they come near the target return of 10 per cent they should double last year's £24m operating profit, which fell from £30.4m in 1995.

But the real growth story lies overseas. The US continues to power ahead, with the 5 per cent upturn in the market in the first half showing no sign of slowing in the aftermath of the construction boom surrounding the Atlanta Olympics. Profits up from

£21.2m to £25.1m have overtaken the UK and, with further price rises in the offing, the background seems set fair for Blue Circle's planned 600,000 tonne capacity increase.

The US is just one area where the group is seeking to use its firepower for acquisitions. Even with £500m or so of capital investment planned over the next four years, minimal gearing means it could have £400m to spend on purchases in areas like the US, Argentina, India or South-east Asia.

However, a repeat of Chile or Malaysia and Singapore, where profits soared 58 per cent, might be difficult, given the number of rivals with deep pockets planning a similar course.

Meanwhile, profits of £300m or so this year would put the shares, down 3.5p at 373p, on a forward rating of 16, which looks high enough for now.

Speculation at Yorkshire-TT

A sparkling set of interim results from Yorkshire-TT Tees was overshadowed yesterday by speculation about

the future of the ITV licence holder. The question which continues to tease observers concerns the intentions of fellow-broadcaster Granada, which has a 24 per cent stake in YTT.

Analysts and investors are in little doubt that a takeover is coming, hence the whopping premium at which the shares are trading. Yesterday's announcement of an 80 per cent jump in first-half profits to £13.3m came despite disappointing returns from advertising. The group's share of national advertising revenues languishes at around 10 per cent, well down on its historic high of 14 per cent.

But programme sales more than made up for lacklustre advertising and cost cutting has continued. Expenditure, the well-known soap, has gone to three episodes a week, while YTT has been contracted to supply three made-for-TV films for the US.

But the real story remains with Granada and what it does next. There have been several informal discussions between Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, and Ward Thomas, chairman of YTT, about how an agreed deal might work, and at what price. Yesterday's 22.5p fall in the share price to £12.15 was based on the highly unlikely assumption that the company will announce a rights issue to pay for acquisitions. That looks far fetched.

Even after yesterday's drop, the shares remain on a stratospheric rating, reflecting not just takeover prospects, but the likelihood that the huge licence fees paid by the two YTT TV companies will come down during the renegotiation scheduled for 1997/8, and the probability that YTT's share of advertising revenues will come into closer balance with the region's demographic and consumer profile.

So how much will Granada have to pay? Full-year profits are likely to exceed £28m, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 36 times 1996 earnings. The expectation is that Granada could afford up to £14 a share, and still avoid earnings dilution.

The nervous should look in profits and sell now, but those with a more robust constitution will hold on.

A question over timing at IMI

On the face of it, IMI's recent reshuffling of its business portfolio looks abysmally timed. At the beginning of the year it paid £134m for Heimeier, Germany's biggest maker of thermo-static radiators, just as the German construction market all but shut down. It followed that up in February by offloading its titanium metal business on to Titanium Metals Corporation, the biggest US producer, just as orders soared at the jet engine builders which represent one of the biggest customers for the metal.

But IMI chief executive Gary Allen remains sanguine, pointing out that the asset swap replaced a business which lost £6.5m in the first half of last year with one which made £8.1m in very difficult markets this time.

The shake-up distorted half-time results to June, which saw pre-tax profits soaring from £49m to £138m. Stripping out £70.8m of disposal profits, underlying profits were 37 per cent ahead.

Much of that was due to Heimeier's maiden contribution to the copper pipes to valves building products division, which scored from £16.9m to £23.7m. The business was hit by the harsh winter and difficult markets on the Continent. Even adding back a £300,000 loss on copper stocks, profits in the original operations were down £800,000.

But IMI says recovery is in sight for the UK housing and German repair and maintenance markets. With gearing cut to 9 per cent, the group is looking at acquisition prospects in Europe and the US for its fluid power pneumatic components arm.

Full-year profits of £199m would put the shares, down 16p at 380p, on prospective p/e ratio of 15. Fairly rated.

A lecture on how to lose millions

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

An entrepreneur who headed two businesses that went bust, and who went into personal insolvency two years ago, has been made visiting professor at Sunderland University's Business School.

John Broome is to head up the team of principal and senior lecturers who will teach the country's first degree course in themed leisure management design.

Mr Broome first sprang to fame with Alton Towers, which he developed as a leisure park in the 1970s and then sold to Pearson in 1990 for £60m. Then in 1987 he bought Battersea Power Station in London and things turned sour. His ambitious project to turn the site into a leisure attraction, a scheme personally launched by Margaret Thatcher, went into liquidation in April 1994 with a deficiency of £75.8m.

Still enthused by big projects, he launched a £22m redevelopment of Carden Park in Cheshire. Bank of Scotland sent in the receivers in October 1994. Developer Steve Morgan then bought Carden from the receivers. According to receivers, creditors suffered losses of "many millions of pounds".

There were more losses when Mr Broome entered an individual voluntary arrangement with his creditors to pay off his personal debts later in 1994.

Mr Broome said yesterday that he was "delighted" by the professorship. "It is a considerable accolade to be awarded such a post and to be able to pass on my knowledge on to the younger generation in this field."

Malcolm Shearson, an insolvency practitioner with Grant Thornton who was involved in the Carden receivership, said: "It does prove that there are opportunities after insolvency."



Thinking big: John Broome in the bowels of Battersea

CLASSIFIED

Public Notices

OPRAF

RAILWAYS ACT 1993

OFFICE OF PASSENGER RAIL FRANCHISING

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICES
The Franchising Director gives notice under Sections 37, 39 and 41 of the Railways Act 1993 that, after due consideration, on or after 30 September 1996 Railtrack PLC and North West Regional Railways Limited propose to withdraw passenger services to and from, and terminate the use of, the following station:-

WREXHAM CENTRAL (NORTH WALES)

and to terminate the use of 280 metres of track and associated operational installations at the station.

The reason for this proposal is to allow the construction of a new Wrexham Central station approximately 280 metres to the north-west of the existing station. The new station will provide better facilities for passengers, including an enclosed covered area at the head of the platform, equipped with seating, lighting and passenger information. Ten new dedicated car parking spaces will be available, including disabled and cycle parking facilities. High quality lighting and public address systems will be installed, together with closed circuit television. The new station will be linked to a commercial retail development.

No changes are proposed from the existing service as a result of the station relocation. During the construction of the new station (approximately 4 months), services between Wrexham General and Wrexham Central will be replaced by buses.

Objections to the proposed withdrawal of services and/or closure of the station and track, preferably in writing, may be lodged within six weeks of 4 September, i.e. by 16 October, with:-

Teresa Perchard
Passenger Services Group
Office of the Rail Regulator
1 Waterhouse Square
138-142 Holborn
London EC1N 2ST
Telephone: 0645 645625 (all calls charged at local rate)
Facsimile: 0171 282 2043

The Rail Regulator may make objections public or copy them to the operator proposing the closure.

A statement of the reasons for the proposed closure can be inspected on any working day between 10am and 4pm at the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (OPRAF), Golding's House, 2 Hay's Lane, London, SE1 2HB, telephone 0171 940 4299, or at Wrexham Library Arts Centre, Rhosddu Road, Wrexham. Copies of the statement can be obtained by request from OPRAF. There will be no charge for copies.

The Rail Regulator will send a copy of every objection to the proposed closure which is lodged with him to the Rail Users' Consultative Committee (RUCC) for Wales. The RUCC will then consider whether the proposed closure will cause any hardship and if so, what reasonable means of alleviating this hardship would be. The RUCC will prepare a report on their conclusions and send it to the Rail Regulator. The Rail Regulator will decide whether the proposed closure should be allowed and, if so, whether any conditions should be attached to the closure.

Wrexham Central station will remain open and services will not be withdrawn until the Rail Regulator has made his decision.

Signed: CHRIS STOKES

Duly authorised by the Franchising Director

Public Notices

OPRAF

DEDDF RHEILFFYRDD 1993

SWYDDFA BREINIO RHEILFFYRDD

TEITHWYR [OFFICE OF PASSENGER RAIL FRANCHISING]

CYNNIG I DERFYNU GWASANAETHAU TEITHWYR RHEILFFYRDD

Mae'r Cyfarwyddwr Breinio'n hysbysu o dan Adranau 37, 39 a 41 yn Neddf Rheilffyrdd 1993 fod Railtrack PLC a North West Regional Railways Limited yn bwriadu terfynu gwasanaethau i deithwyr ar 30 Medi 1996 neu wedi hynny i'r orsaf ddilynol ac ohoni, gan derfynu'r deithwyr a wneir ohoni:-

GORSAF GANOLOG WRECSAM (GOGLEDD CYMRU)

a therfynu'r deithwyr a wneir o 280 metr o gledrau a pheiriau weithiau gweithredol cysylltiol yn yr orsaf.

Y rheswm am y cynnig hwn yw er mwyn caniatáu adeiladu gorsaf ganolog newydd yn Wrecsam tua 280 metr i'r gogledd-orllewin o'r orsaf bresennol. Fe fydd yr orsaf newydd yn cynnig gwell cyfleusterau i deithwyr, yn cynnwys llecyn caeedig ac o dan o ben y platform, wedi'i gyfarparu â seddau, goleuadau a gwybodaeth i deithwyr. Fe fydd deg o fannau parcio unswydd ar gael, gan gynnwys adnoddau ar gyfer yr anabl a pharcio beiciau. Fe osodir systemau goleuo a chyffwrddau a'r cyhoedd o answydd da, ynghyd â theleddu cyhoedd caeedig. Fe gysylltir yr orsaf â datblygiad manwrthu masnachol.

Nid oes bwriad i wneud unrhyw newidiadau i'r gwasanaeth presennol o ganlyniad i ail-leoli'r orsaf. Yn ystod y gwaith o adeiladu'r orsaf newydd (tua 4 mis), fe ddosodir y gwasanaethau rhwyng gorsaf Gyffredinol Wrecsam a gorsaf Canol Wrecsam gan fysiau.

Gellir rhoi gwybod am wrthwynebiad i dynnu gwasanaethau 'nol a/neu gau'r orsaf a'r dedrau, gorau o'i drwy ysgrifennu, o fewn chwe wythnos ar ôl 4 Medi, h.y. erbyn 16 Hydref, i:

Teresa Perchard
Passenger Services Group
Office of the Rail Regulator
1 Waterhouse Square
138-142 Holborn
LONDON EC1N 2ST
Telephone: 0645 645625 (codir am bob galwad ar y gyfradd leol)
Facsimile: 0171 282 2043

Efallai y bydd Rheoldd y Rheilffyrdd yn cyhoeddi'r gwrthwynebiadau neu'n eu copio a'u hannon at y gweithredwr sy'n cynnig cau'r orsaf.

Gellir gweld datganiad o'r rhesymau dros y caed arfaethedig yn ystod unrhyw ddiwrnod gwaith rhwyng 10am a 4pm yn Swyddfa Breinio Rheilffyrdd Teithwyr (OPRAF), Ty Golding, 2 Hay's Lane, Llundain, SE1 2HB, ffôn 0171 940 4299, neu yn Lyfrgell Wrecsam, Canolfan i Celfyddydau, Heol Rhosddu, Wrecsam. Gellir cael copïau o'r datganiad drwy wneud cais i OPRAF. Ni chodir codiant am gopïau.

Bydd Rheoldd y Rheilffyrdd yn anfon copi o bob gwrthwynebiad i'r caed arfaethedig a anfonir ato at Bwyllgor Ymgynghoriol Derfnyddwyr Rheilffyrdd (RUCC) dros Gymru. Yna fe fydd y Pwyllgor yn ystyried a fydd y caed arfaethedig yn achosi unrhyw galedig ac os fydd, pa foddion rhesymol i liniaru'r galedig hwn fyddai ar gael. Fe fydd y Pwyllgor hefyd yn paratol adroddiad ar eu casgliadau ac yn ei anfon at Reoldd y Rheilffyrdd. Fe fydd Rheoldd y Rheilffyrdd yn penderfynu a ddyddid caniatu'r caed arfaethedig ac os felly, a ddyddid gosod unrhyw amodau ynglŷn â'r caed.

Fe fydd gorsaf Canol Wrecsam yn dal ar agor ac ni ddilid gwasanaethau hyd nes y bydd Rheoldd y Rheilffyrdd wedi gwneud ei benderfyniad.

Llofnodwyd: CHRIS STOKES

Awdurdodwyd yn briodol gan y Cyfarwyddwr Breinio.

Swebus the start expansion in Europe

MICHAEL HARRISON

Stagecoach, the acquisitive and aggressive bus and rail operator, yesterday served notice that it planned to expand further into Europe as it sealed the £230m takeover of the state-owned Swedish bus group Swebus.

Chairman Brian Souter said that the acquisition of Swebus, the biggest bus operator in the Nordic region with a fleet of 3,450 buses and 6,200 staff, would provide a strong platform for further expansion in the area and other parts of Europe.

The group, which controls 18 per cent of the British bus market and operates the South West Trains franchise into London's Waterloo station, aims to increase turnover four-fold to £2bn by the end of the decade.

Stagecoach is paying £115.6m in cash for Swebus and taking on debt and accrued interest of £117m. The deal follows its controversial £825m acquisition of the train leasing company Porterbrook last month from a management buyout team.

Swebus, owned by the Swedish national railway, made pre-tax profits of Swedish kroner 111m (£9.8m) last year on turnover of Skr3.2bn and controls 30 per cent of Sweden's bus market, but only 3 to 4 per cent of the Nordic markets outside Sweden.

However, our athletes did at the Atlanta Olympics, console yourself with the thought that one Birmingham company won four gold medals, three silver and four bronze.

IMI's chief executive Gary Allen is rightly pleased as punch that the group's Brummi subsidiary, Eley, made the ammunition for four of the gold medalists in the small bore shooting competition.

Shooters from Russia, China, Yugoslavia and France found the bullseye with Eley ammo.

Mr Allen, who has been at IMI for around 30 years, also points out that all of Eley's bullets are used in peacetime target shooting with none going to the military. So Eley wins the Green as well.

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market report/shares

Footsie suffers jitters in the wake of Iraqi flare-up

TAKING STOCK

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100

3855.9 -28.5

FT-SE 250

4385.4 -28.6

FT-SE 350

1930.9 -13.9

SEAQ VOLUME

703m shares,

31,669 bargains

Gilt Index

92.63 -0.27

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

BRITISH VITA

270

260

250

240

230

220

210

200

190

180

170

160

150

140

130

120

110

100

90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

-10

-20

-30

-40

-50

-60

-70

-80

-90

-100

-110

-120

-130

-140

-150

-160

-170

-180

-190

-200

-210

-220

-230

-240

-250

-260

-270

-280

-290

-300

-310

-320

-330

-340

-350

-360

-370

-380

-390

-400

-410

-420

-430

-440

-450

-460

-470

-480

-490

-500

-510

-520

-530

-540

-550

It was a difficult session for shares with the Iraqi flare-up and worries about US interest rates producing, with a little help from the Deutsche Morgan Grenfell funds fiasco, an acute bout of collywobbles.

At one time the FT-SE 100 index was nursing a 48.6 points fall and seemed destined to go even lower. But once New York got over initial hesitancy the stock market became more positive with the slide reduced to 28.5 (to 3,855.9) by the close.

The Iraqi confrontation put the spotlight on industries - largely airlines and hotels - which were savaged during the Gulf war when many travellers decided to stay at home.

British Airways, with the added worry of mounting pressure on its proposed American Airlines link, crash landed 12.5p to 512p. On the hotel front, Granada fell 16.5p to 849.5p, Bass 7.5p to 813.5p and Ladbroke 1p to 207.5p.

Oils lost some of their exuberance although crude prices continued to move ahead. Besides the increase in Middle Eastern tension, the United Nations' decision to postpone the food-for-oil deal, which would have allowed Iraq limited exporting opportunities, was again an influence in forcing the oil market higher.

Interest rate concerns were heightened by today's scheduled Ken and Eddie meeting. Despite the Chancellor's desire for lower rates it is thought he will for the time being bow to the more bearish stance of the Bank of England.

The near term direction of US rates could prove the decisive factor. The market is divided whether President Clinton will chance an increase ahead of the presidential election. If he does sit tight the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre is increased. The latest fund manage-



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

ment outcry prompted thoughts about a much tougher supervisory regime. If stories floating around about the composition of the suspended funds are true then portfolios had little relation to the apparent management guidelines.

British Biotech, rumoured to be one of the main investments, fell 3p to 218p (after 192.5p) and Standard Bank, another alleged Morgan stock, gave up 12.5p to 472.5p.

On the surface it looked as though the market enjoyed a busy session. However, Government sales of National Power, PowerGen and Southern Electric helped swell volume. Through Goldman Sachs

28.5 million NP shares and 860,000 Southern went through and UBS handled the disposal of 17.1 million PG. The action dimmed the two generators, NP by 8p to 393p and PG by 8.5p to 495.5p but Southern managed a 2.5p gain to 665p.

Williams Holdings, one of the few conglomerates riding high, was little changed at 357.5p as Albert E Sharp made bullish noises ahead of next week's interim results. Suggesting profits of £112m, the stockbroker observed the shares "now look poised to break out from the sector straight jacket and achieve genuine growth status".

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group, gained 3p to 198p on suspected buying by Morgan Stanley and Tate & Lyle edged ahead 2.5p to 457.5p although more profit downgrades were signalled.

Iceland's poor display unsettled other food retailers and Farnborough produced modest gains for the aerospace contingent.

Avon Rubber, the tyres group, enjoyed a speculative run, up 22.5p at 710p, a 12 month high. Croda International added 25.5p to 338p after better-than-expected profits.

The Croda display directed attention to British Vita, up 9.5p to 204.5p.

With signs of a chemical upturn hopes are growing Monday's half-year figures will be accompanied by an encouraging trading statement. SBC Warburg has moved the shares from hold to add. Interim profits are likely to be around

£22m against £26.2m. A year's out-turn approaching £50m (£35.7m) is the expectation being expressed in some quarters.

Telapac's latest profit warning sent the shares reeling 180p to 222.5p. They were 1,045p in November. Memory Corporation lost a further 13.5p to 24p.

Quality Software, the computer group, edged forward 2.5p to 257.5p. Its recent strength appears to be due to buying by the Bulldog Fund, an investment vehicle related to stockbroker Seligman Harris. It has acquired nearly 4 per cent.

Millwall, the second-division football club, had to contend with more selling by director Jose Berardo. He has unloaded a further 5.5 million shares. His holding is 4.53 per cent against 12.5 per cent earlier this year. The shares firmed to 3.5p.

JBCE, the computer games group, fell 1p to 13.75p, low for more than a year. The fall has occurred despite favourable presentations about AutoNomy, developing an Internet search system, where BCE has 8.3 per cent.

At the half-way mark the computer group had lost £1.2m and there are worries publishers may have delayed commitments to new games. There is also talk a sell note is being prepared by a stockbroker. The shares were 25p in November.

Ladbroke has emerged as a surprise 4.45 per cent shareholder in Wakebourne, the struggling computer group. It seems the betting and hotel group could have acquired its interest in December, 1994, when a company with a debt to Ladbroke went into receivership. Wakebourne held at 27.5p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: risk rating is a creditworthiness rating by Standard & Poor's; market cap is the market value of the company's shares. Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Soap, Simply dial 081 221 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 081 221 335 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 081 221 333. For assistance, call our helpline 079 697 6500 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). Calls cost 30p per minute (excl. VAT), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Share Price	Volume	Share Price	Volume
National Power	500000	350p	British Airways	50000	170p
BP	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
Shell	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Gas	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Telecom	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
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British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p
British Airways	200000	140p	BT	50000	100p

FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

Time	Index	Change	Time	Index	Change
Open 3871	down 73		11.00	3855.9	down 28.5
09.00	3865.6	down 78	12.00	3855.9	down 28.5
10.00	3855.8	down 28.8	13.00	3855.9	down 28.5
			Close	3855.9	down 28.5

net names

Under 10%

of these companies have protected their names for Internet use

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Investment Companies

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Life Assurance

Medicine

Government Securities

Short

Medium

Long

Index-linked

Uncollected

Household Goods

Food Manufacturers

Electronics

Building/Construction

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Banks, Retail

Banks, Merchant

Alcoholic Beverages

Chemicals

Distributions

Engineering

Engineering Vehicles

Extractive Industries

International

Oil Exploration

Oil, Integrated

Other Financial

Pharmaceuticals

Printing & Paper

Retailers, Food

Retailers, General

Support Services

Telecommunications

Textiles & Apparel

Transport

Utilities

A taste of England 1: In the fields of Kent the grapes mature to produce one of our finest vintages for years

JAMES CUSICK

A September sun, faint breeze, good food eaten outdoors overlooking a hillside of vineyards. Not Bordeaux but Kent – no Gallic *je ne sais quoi* here. Without question this has been a superb year for English wine and only the French are complaining.

At the beginning of next month the chaos, excitement and buzz of the English wine harvest will descend on the country's eight or so commercial vineyards. A hot summer last year and a frost-free spring followed by a summer of good sun this year have left the vines with a bumper crop of quality grapes.

Despite the old prejudice that wine from England is as appropriate as an outdoor swimming pool in Stornaway, the arguable climatic shift in recent years towards milder springs and hotter summers has led to a wine industry no longer considered a joke among international producers. Consistent quality is now achievable.

With the country now contributing more than 2 million bottles of wine to the European Union's production total, the EU has been trying to impose its quality control on English producers. France takes its own classification control very seriously but the English system has generally been ignored by producers who have hoped the bureaucracy would fade away and let them get on with improving the product. However, the harvest this year is likely to

increase England's small share of the EU market and French producers are known by the British growers to be furious.

At Lamberhurst Vineyards set in 60 acres of Kent countryside in the Weald near Tunbridge Wells, wine-maker Simon Day is anticipating the coming harvest with relish. Trained at the Three Choirs Vineyards in Gloucestershire and Brown Brothers in Australia he is one of the few professionals who believe English wine has already rid itself of its "plonk" image.

Six varieties of grapes are grown at Lamberhurst: Seyval blanc, Schonburger, Reichenstein, Bacchus, Muller Thurgau and Kerner. And this partly explains why the French are so upset. "Seyval blanc, for example, is a hybrid grape," Mr Day said. "It is high yielding and disease resistant. The French have tried to grow it and they say it produces only poor quality wine, but in the English climate it thrives and produces good wine."

Although EU regulations allow Lamberhurst to use the Seyval blanc grape, the French say the crop will simply add to Europe's wine lake by producing more inferior wine. The fact that Lamberhurst has won international wine awards indicates protectionist tendencies from the French rather than genuine concern about over-production.

Nevertheless, when the French wine industry is worried, the European Commission takes notice. A delegation of inspectors is expected to conduct a new

survey of the English wine growers before this year's harvest is in. If the EU imposed a growing ban on certain varieties of weather-resistant grapes, Britain's industry could be killed off. However, it is more likely that the French – as they did with the United States, Australia, New Zealand and now South Africa – will have to learn to live with new competition.

Lamberhurst has been in production since 1972. In the first year it crushed just over 100 tons of grapes. This year's total is up to 600 tons and the harvest is expected to raise production even higher. Last year, Paul Cooper and Derek McMillan – with backgrounds in industry and public relations – became the new owners of Lamberhurst. They have aggressively marketed the Kentish vineyards and now hold large contracts with Sainsbury and Tesco, and are negotiating with Oddbins.

Mr Day said: "At the moment we have just enough to last us but we are running out of wine because the demand is so good." Like a proud father speaking of a gifted child he recalled the recent visit of a French wine-maker to Kent. "We entertained them at Lamberhurst. I don't think they expected what they drank – it surprised them."

But wine making is "as much science as art", he added, and "there is always room for improvement". The French are probably hoping for not too much improvement.



Wine-maker's delight: Simon Day inspecting the grapes at Lamberhurst, where a bumper harvest is expected

Photograph: Peter...

A taste of England 2: In a froth of PR, alcoholic gel is launched

GLENDA COOPER



Thickhead: Offending label on the latest alcopop

Carlsberg-Tetley, gave in to pressure yesterday from the drinks industry watchdog to change the packaging of its latest "alcopop", Thickhead, amid fears that it could encourage underage drinking.

The drink – described as the first "alcoholic carbonated gel drink" – made by Carlsberg-Tetley in Burton-on-Trent, is the latest alcoholic soft drink to come under fire amid fears they are appealing to under-18s.

The Portman Group, set up by the drinks industry, told Carlsberg-Tetley that the word

alcohol should be displayed more prominently and that the picture on the label of a youth pulling a face directly contravenes its code of practice by portraying someone who could be under 18.

Yesterday, Carlsberg-Tetley agreed to the group's demand in future production of the drink.

The Labour Party demanded an independent inquiry into the drink, while Alcohol Concern described it as "ludicrous" to expect that a drink resembling liquidised jelly would not appeal to children.

Carlsberg-Tetley denied that Thickhead, a fluorescent orange

drink, would encourage under-18s to drink and claimed it would appeal to the "repertoire drinkers" aged 18-30 who no longer show dedication to particular brands or drinks.

Jean Coussins, director of the Portman Group said: "The good news is the company is still fully supportive of the Portman Group and will be changing the labelling accordingly. The bad news is we don't know how long it is going to take before the label is changed... We wish they had delayed the launch and changed the labels."

Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, Nigel Griffiths,

said: "We must have an independent inquiry into the marketing of alcopops and make recommendations to ensure they are not targeted at teenagers," he said.

Mark Bennett, spokesman for Alcohol Concern said: "We find it difficult to believe that a product which is basically liquidised jelly with an extremely sweet taste and luminous colour will not appeal to children... Is this self-regulation at work? We are astonished that the Portman Group and Carlsberg-Tetley do not seem to be talking to one another about this. It is ludicrous."

However, Carlsberg-Tetley, who also make Lemonhead and Orangehead (alcoholic lemonade and orangeade), said the gooey brew which is "tangerine in flavour, fluorescent orange in colour... [and] the consistency of liquid hair gel" was the latest attempt to woo the "pick and mix" generation who no longer stick to one type of drink.

Around £250m is expected to be spent on alcopops this year. Since the launch of the first alcoholic lemonade, the British public has been treated to alcoholic cola and orangeade and there are rumours of alco-

holic "slush puppies" (frozen ice drinks) on the way.

Stephen Cox, campaigns manager for the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) said: "As the old volume-related products have gone down, the drinks industry has turned to premium products which people will buy for three or four years. It launches lots and lots of brands in the hope that one of them does well."

"Sol is a great example. It was desperately popular for two years, but then that crowd moved on and no-one would be seen drinking Mexican lager." Suzanne Moore, page 13

Youth market

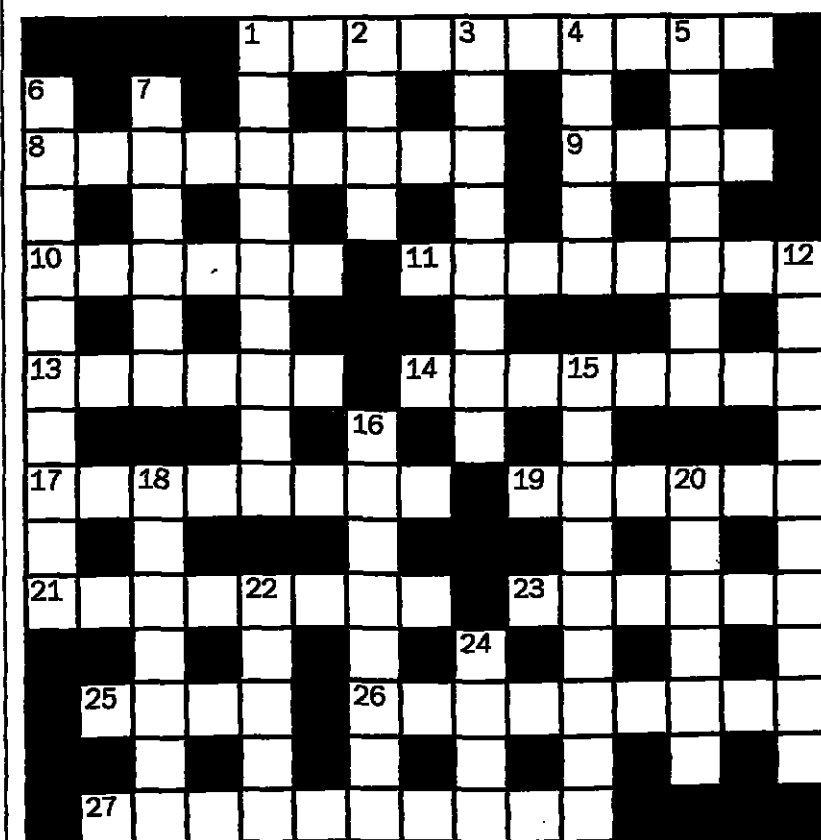
How the... labels young...
Cyber Gen: The wired...
Mind Blow: Cerebral... Timothy Lestya must...
Eco-Pagan: Gloriously...
A-Gender: Tank girl meets... man – endogenous and proud...
Clean Image: Brash and...
Street Sports: Sports with style...

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3083. Wednesday 4 September

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



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ACROSS

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- 8 Football administrators organized relief with dance (9)
- 9 Birds of prey invading wild-fowl sanctuary (4)
- 10 Play in general manner (6)
- 11 Holding fan? (8)
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- 14 It takes a turn for the better (8)
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- 25 Circular letter to man in Turkey – follow instructions! (4)
- 26 End at home, possibly, with something to replace horse? (9)
- 27 In favour of trial, worker is one taking part in demo (10)

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- 3 Infant taking in Swiss girl in Dostoevsky's work (3,5)
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- 15 He has the courage for RI (9)
- 16 Sea-waves ruin man's suit (8)
- 18 One is agile on head of crag (7)
- 20 Wound left – row coming up! (6)
- 22 Secret meeting in country station (5)
- 24 Hotly-tipped mount that runs at times (4)

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apes
years

THE INDEPENDENT

Summer of sport

Wednesday 4 September 1996

England players to boycott training

Rugby Union
DAVID LLEWELLYN

England players yesterday supported a call to put club before country and will boycott today's training session at Bisham Abbey, leaving Jack Rowell, the England coach, with unused scrum machines and rugby balls lying idle on the pitch.

The English Professional Rugby Union Clubs finally flexed their not inconsiderable muscle in the struggle for supremacy with the Rugby Football Union and the players

quickly fell into line behind their employers.

"We are being fully supported by the players, we have stuck our necks out for them, now they must stick theirs out for us," Donald Kerr, the chairman of Epruc, said. "We know that the Rugby Football Union are threatening the players with losing their England places if they fail to attend. We will do everything to protect the players' interests. They have been very much on our side throughout the battle."

"I expect the top players to carry on supporting us. We are now entering the final chapter.

By sticking together we will get the whole thing sorted out in six to eight weeks flat. If not it will go festering on. We will put the RFU under maximum pressure. We have spent the last few days explaining to the players exactly why the whole thing is in such a mess.

"It is not an issue about turning up to the training session, but whether the players support the clubs, who are now their employers. The players are the key to this dispute. They are being paid reasonable salaries and we are asking them to support us in this dispute."

"I've been very impressed at

the way they have conducted themselves throughout this whole sorry saga."

The RFU's response to the boycott came from the RFU technical director Don Rutherford. "It would be sad, with international rugby having moved to a higher level as seen in the Southern Hemisphere, if England's preparations were impinged upon at this stage," he said. And in a statement from Twickenham the RFU reminded the clubs that the training sessions had been discussed on 12 June of this year, confirmed in a memo on 15 July and the first of the planned and agreed

sessions had taken place on 24 July.

England were planning a 43-man squad session, but Leicester's contingent of four forwards, including the Five Nations-winning players Graham Rowntree and Martin Johnson, were among the first to declare that they would not be there. The 43 players will instead attend an Epruc meeting.

"We didn't say to them 'you will not go'. We told them the position as we saw it and left it up to them. They decided not to go," the Leicester chief executive Peter Wheeler said.

The British Lions tour manager

Fran Cotton expressed his sympathy for the players caught up in the dispute and appealed for the game's warring factions to get together to resolve their differences.

The former England forward said: "I really do feel sorry for the players. They are becoming pig in the middle and all they want to do is play for their clubs and their country."

Epruc also stated that it has no intention of meeting the RFU for further talks which have dragged on for the last nine months with the clubs getting nowhere as Twickenham has stalled and extended every

deadline to date in the hope of nullifying the threat of a break-away. But the clubs have finally snapped and although Kerr insisted that the clubs would honour their domestic fixture list, even that must be in doubt.

"I have been asked to meet the president of the Rugby Union John Richardson, but there will be no more talks," Kerr said. "The old order is just not working and the new order has to come in."

It would not be unreasonable to assume that RFU might just decide to make the divorce absolute and expel the clubs. But they would hardly endear them-

selves to rugby supporters already bemused by the game's apparent disintegration.

The only thing left for the RFU now would be to grant the clubs what they want, fiscal independence, autonomy to run their own competitions, but next season that is precisely what Epruc see themselves doing anyway.

Ultimately the thing which lies at the root of this sordid affair is money. The clubs say they need £1m, the RFU has offered £300,000. That sort of money does not talk, so the clubs walk.

Geoghegan operation, page 2

Illingworth cleared of disrepute charge

Cricket

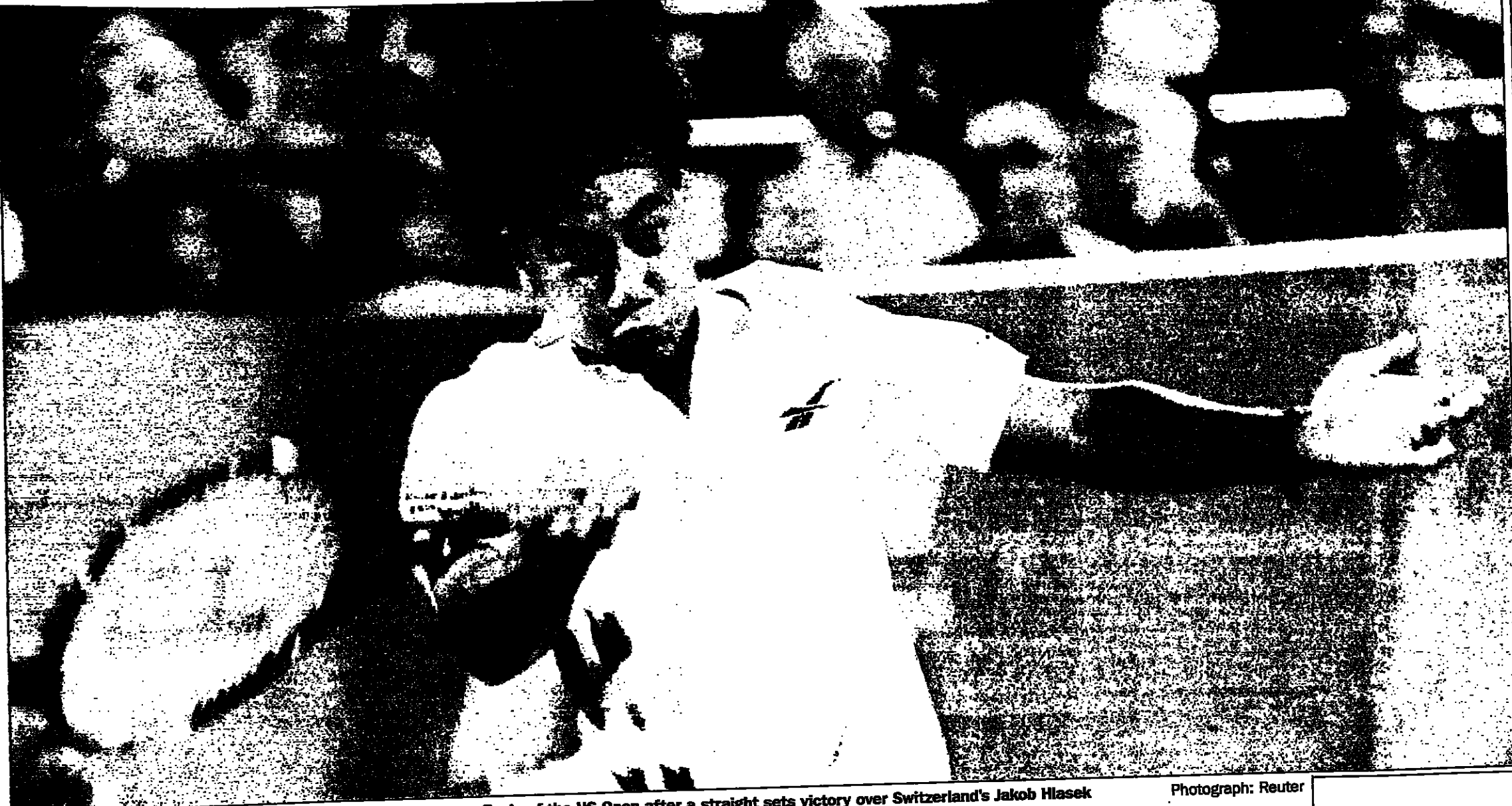
Raymond Illingworth left Lord's a happy man last night after winning his appeal against a disrepute charge.

After a five-hour hearing with the Cricket Council appeals panel, Illingworth said: "I am delighted with the result. It is a relief that now everything has ended. It has been a long, hard six months, but I feel vindicated and delighted that my name has been cleared."

Illingworth was fined £2,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board in June over newspaper articles from his book, principally about the England fast bowler Devon Malcolm, with whom Illingworth had a very public falling-out on last winter's tour to South Africa.

Illingworth, who retired as chairman of selectors following England's final one-day match against Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Sunday, said: "I didn't want to leave the game with a disrepute charge hanging over me. As far as I'm concerned, my name has been cleared."

Report, page 5



Going through: Michael Chang powers his way into the quarter-finals of the US Open after a straight sets victory over Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek

Photograph: Reuter

Agassi promises explosive match

Tennis
DERRICK WHYTE

Andre Agassi and Thomas Muster are ready to bring the United States Open alive with a quarter-final match between two of the game's hardest hitters.

"It's going to be big tennis," the sixth-seeded Agassi said of his meeting with the third-seeded Austrian. "Big tennis is when you get two guys trying to establish their will out there on the court."

"We both are going to be beating the ball pretty good from the baseline. You'll hear explosions off the racket four, five, six times a point. That's big tennis."

Neither player needed to raise the decibel level of his game on Monday. Muster prevailed over the 13th-seeded Swede, Thomas Enqvist, 7-6 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, despite being weakened by the effects of a stomach upset. There were no such concerns for Agassi after his 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 win over his American compatriot David Wheaton.

Regardless of Muster's health, Agassi is expecting the gritty left-hander to give his usual all-out effort. "I think he punches the clock every time he steps on the court," Agassi said of the 1993 French Open champion. "Every time he gets out

there, he busts his ass to win. I don't expect him to do anything less."

The match has added spice because there is no love lost between the two players who have split their eight previous encounters.

Muster was one of the most vocal critics of the Open's decision to elevate Agassi two places in the seedings from his ATP ranking and drop the Austrian one spot.

Earlier in the year, Agassi questioned Muster's legitimacy as the world No 1 since he had won only on clay, but the American said he did not see the upcoming confrontation between the two former Grand Slam champions in personal terms.

"I think if anyone makes this more than a tennis match, it's their own issue," said Agassi, winner of the 1994 Open as well as the 1995 Australian Open and 1992 Wimbledon.

"Come on, we're in the quarter-finals of the US Open. We both have won big events before. We both want to do it again. That's what we're both going out there and trying to do. To make it anything more than that is a waste of time."

Goran Ivanisevic also made it through to the last eight yesterday. The left-handed Croatian served out 20 aces in his 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 victory over the unseeded Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine.

In another fourth-round match, Spain's Alex Corretja defeated Guy Forget of France 6-4, 6-3, 7-6. The victory earned the unseeded Corretja a match with either the defending champion, Pete Sampras, or the hard-serving Australian Mark Philippoussis. Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, took his place in the with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek.

The 24-year-old Chang's next hurdle is 28-year-old Javier Sanchez of Spain, ranked 67 and with a 1996 record of 23-27. He has not played Sanchez in four years, but won all three of their early encounters.

Chang, who improved his match record to 20-2 since Wimbledon, is on course to reach the semi-finals without having to face a seeded opponent.

The seemingly indefatigable 1989 French Open champion said too many tough tests can wear you out. "I think Pete Sampras is a good example of that at the French Open this year. He had so many tough five-set matches going into semis he was very tired," Chang said of the world No 1, who had three five-setters before losing to Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the eventual champion from Russia.

Sanchez, who surprised 20th-ranked Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch 6-4 7-6 7-6, had lost in the first round of eight of his previous nine Grand Slams.

As if it were not surprising enough to find Sanchez in the second week at a major, there is not a bookmaker on the planet who would have predicted he would last longer than his famous sister, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. But that was what happened.

The third-seeded Sanchez Vicario, who won here in 1994, got a look at the future of women's tennis as she fell to 16th-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

In the quarter-finals, the 15-year-old Hingis will face the seventh-seeded Czech, Jana Novotna, who thrashed the 17th seed, Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, 6-2, 6-0 in just 50 minutes.

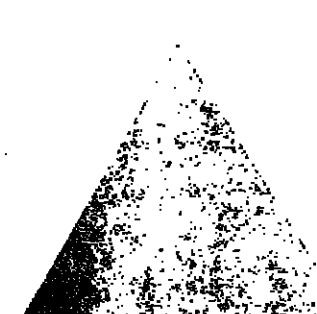
Steffi Graf, the top seed and defending champion, was not about to give way to the youth movement, however. The German world No 1 ended the exciting run of 15-year-old Russian newcomer Anna Kournikova 6-2, 6-1 to reach the quarter-finals for the 12th consecutive year.

"It's important to have these new faces come up," the four-time champion said of Hingis and Kournikova. "It's good to know the future of women's tennis is going to show up."

Graf continues her quest for a 21st Grand Slam singles title with a quarter-final against Austrian Judith Wiesner, a 6-3, 6-0 winner over Italy's Rita Grande.



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INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL
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Hidden Personality
From a family of four children, today's subject is the son of a one-time Olympic boxer from Armenia. His nationality, though, is American. Dad emigrated to the US from Iran in 1952, changing his name from Emmanuel to Mike and later taking up boxing professionally for a while.

Hartford takes charge at City

Football

Asa Hartford, the reluctant caretaker at Maine Road, has accepted his chairman Francis Lee's offer to become manager of Manchester City.

Hartford, who is very popular with the players, had claimed that he was only interested in being assistant manager at Maine Road and would not apply to take over from Alan Ball, but after a fresh approach from Lee - who made a reported offer to double Hartford's wages - he had a change of heart before City's game with Charlton last night.

Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, and Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson have been charged with bringing the game into dispute after arguing with Michael Riley, a new Premiership referee.

They are not the only ones in trouble. The Coventry pair Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan have also been charged, while Sunderland have been charged after allegations that they played a suspended player, Alex Rae, in a reserve game.

Riley was verbally abused by Souness both at half-time and at

the end of Leicester's 2-1 win at Filbert Street on 21 August, triggered by the dismissal of Barry Venison. Robson lost his temper when the referee booked nine players and sent off Nigel Pearson in the 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest on 24 August.

Atkinson and Strachan have been charged following Coventry's reserve match against West Bromwich last week, in which Strachan refused to leave after being sent off, halting the game for 15 minutes. Atkinson then weighed in with a verbal attack on the official.

Another referee, Paul Danson, has also reported the pair following problems at Stamford Bridge on 24 August, when Coventry lost 3-0. There were angry scenes over Chelsea's first goal after Dan Petrescu was alleged to have handled.

George Weah may be heading to Highbury in time for Christmas. The Milan striker has said he is keen to link up with Arsène Wenger, the Gunners' new manager, after the Champions' League group games. Weah, who has two years left on his contract in Italy, will be released by Milan in December, if Arsenal come up with £10m.

Arsenal's Uefa Cup first-round second-leg match with Borussia Mönchengladbach has been switched to Cologne because facilities at Borussia's stadium do not meet European requirements.

Middlesbrough's Jamie Pollock has joined the Spanish Second Division club Osasuna after rejecting a three-year contract with the Premiership side.

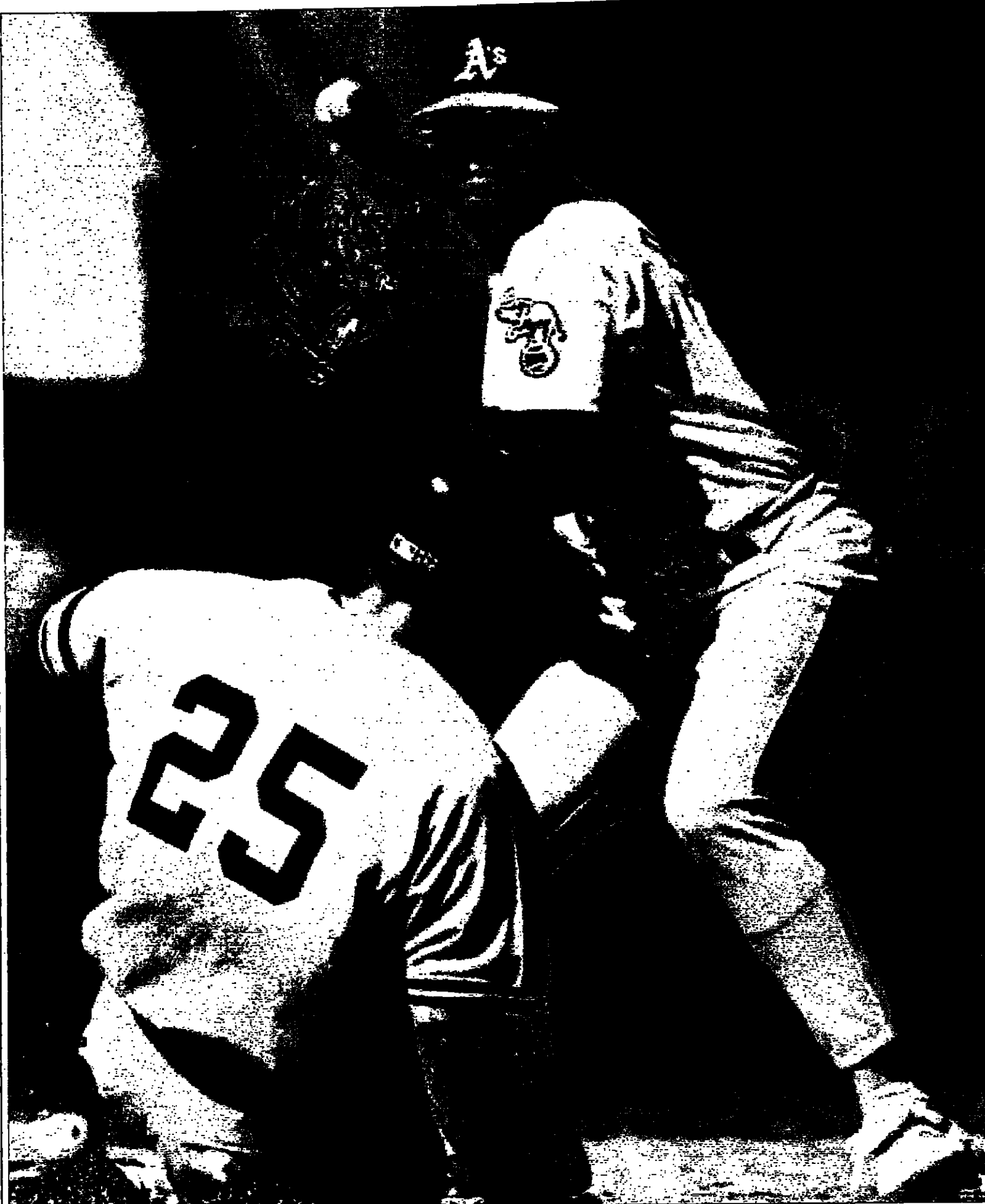
Nwankwo Kanu, the Nigerian forward signed by Internazionale this summer, has been told to retire because he is suffering from a heart defect.

Piero Volpi, the club doctor, said that the 20-year-old, who helped Nigeria win the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta, had a weak aortic valve. "The diagnosis is merciless, but that is the situation. My only consolation, as a doctor, is that the illness was discovered so that the lad can be treated," he said.

The discovery of Kanu's ailment is expected to start a legal case between Inter and Ajax about the validity of his transfer.

Tommy McLean, the former manager of Hears, has been appointed manager of the Scottish Premier Division club Raith Rovers on a three-year contract.

Diamonds are a Yankees' best friend



Sends up: Joe Girardi, of the New York Yankees, is forced out by Oakland Athletics' Tony Bastista in the eighth innings of a Major League match in California on Monday night. But the Yankees still ran the Athletics ragged, winning 5-0. Photograph: AP

Nielsen prepares for unfamiliar surroundings

Allan Nielsen, Tottenham's new £1.65m signing from Denmark, makes his Premiership debut against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park tonight - without most of the players he thought he was joining.

Teddy Sheringham, Chris Armstrong, Gary Mabbutt and Dean Austin are all on a long injury list which has again disrupted Garry Francis's start to the season.

Goalkeeper Ian Walker, who damaged his back training with England at the weekend, and Darren Anderton, still inhibited by abdominal stress from the major surgery which forced him to miss seven months of last season, are both highly doubtful.

Francis is likely to play winger Ruel Fox as a central striker to save 18-year-old Rory Allen a daunting Premiership debut, but said: "It is fair to assume Rory will be involved in some way. He is all I have left as cover for the strikers."

Nigerian striker Efan Ekoku takes over the onerous mantle

of Wimbledon's goalscoring responsibilities from Dean Holdsworth, who is currently out of favour with the Dons' manager, Joe Kinnear, and may be on his way out of Selhurst Park. Wimbledon have yet to score this season.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, is refusing to be carried away by their unbeaten start to the season. The London side can cut Sheffield Wednesday's lead at the top to two points by winning at Arsenal tonight, but Gullit said: "Current positions in the league are irrelevant."

"Maybe after seven or eight games you will begin to see which teams will be up there at the end of the season, but three games is not a realistic time to measure a team's quality."

Stewart Houston, who is in temporary charge at Highbury, is not underestimating the visitors. "Chelsea have caught the imagination with their summer signings and they all seem to have settled in quickly. I watched them in their opening game at

Southampton and Vialli, Leboeuf and Di Matteo have given them a great strength through the middle," he said.

West Ham will give their Danish defender, Marc Rieper, a late fitness test before the trip to Middlesbrough. John Moncur, Ian Bishop and Tony Cottee are still injured, but Harry Redknapp can call on his Romanian duo Florin Raducioiu and Ilie Dumitrescu for the first time this season.

Middlesbrough will be without their captain, Nigel Pearson, but manager Bryan Robson said: "It is a very exciting fixture with so many overseas players involved. Harry has done a remarkable job at West Ham because when he came in they were regarded as relegation material, but all that has changed now."

Graeme Souness is to give debuts to new signings Claus Lundekvam and Robbie Slater as Southampton look for their first victory of the season against Nottingham Forest at The Dell.

Davies loses her touch

Golf

Laura Davies, who birdied six of the final seven holes at the LPGA Rail Classic at Springfield, Illinois, and made a 25ft bunker shot on the last hole to join a three-way play-off, finally lost her touch.

America's Barb Whitehead missed her chance to win on Monday when her 40ft chip shot struck the pin on the first extra hole and bounced away. So it fell to her compatriot Michelle McGann, whose 12ft putt for birdie on the third hole of extra play gave her the victory.

"I knew this course would give up a lot of birdies," McGann, who has earned three of her five tour wins in play-offs, said. "I knew whoever made the most putts would win."

McGann, Davies and Whitehead completed the 54 holes at 14 under par, all level at 202. After the three made par on the first two play-off holes, they returned to the par-four 18th. "I knew I had to be aggressive," McGann, who hit a final-round 68, said. "I had to have a birdie at least. That was a pivotal hole." The win was McGann's third of the year and was worth \$86,250 (£56,600).

Davies, who hit 66, finished the regulation play in impressive fashion. The tour's leading money-winner, however, fell victim to poor driving in sudden-death play and bogeyed the final hole. "I just let things happen," she said. "The front nine was really disappointing. I thought I'd make some birdies on the back nine."

Davies took a break from the US tour and flew back to Britain to compete in the European Women's Open, which starts at Ware, Hertfordshire, tomorrow.

Scores, Digest, Page 9



A jubilant Michelle McGann, from Florida, lifts the trophy after winning a three-way play-off in the LPGA Rail Classic at Springfield, Illinois. Photograph: AP

Geoghegan seeks US help

Rugby Union

Simon Geoghegan, Bath's Irish winger, will travel to the United States at the weekend for surgery on both feet. "I am going to San Diego on Sunday and will have operations on both toe joints by an orthopaedic surgeon who specialises in that particular area," he said.

"I just hope it works out and that I will be able to regain full fitness. It has been frustrating and extremely disappointing."

Geoghegan, who scored a try in Bath's opening match against Orrell, will miss the match at Leicester on Saturday. He has had recurring trouble with the joints and an operation in London during the summer failed to solve the problem.

Va'anga Tuigamala has been cleared to make his debut for Wasps. The Department for Education and Employment have relented and granted the rugby league player and former All Black winger a work permit.

Tuigamala will play for Wigan in the Premiership final at Old Trafford on Sunday, and is expected to play in the Courage League on Saturday week, when Wasps play Bath at the Recreation Ground.

Tuigamala may be up against some familiar faces as two of his Wigan team-mates, Henry Paul and Jason Robinson, are due to make their debuts for Bath in the match.

Wasps had threatened legal action after their initial application for a work permit was turned down on the grounds that Tuigamala did not meet the criterion of having played international rugby in the last 18 months. His last match for the All Blacks, before his move to Wigan, was in 1993.

However, the Department for Education and Employment advised the Rugby Football Union yesterday that they were prepared to allow Tuigamala to play for Wasps.

A spokesman for the RFU said: "We are pleased to support

the Department of Education and Employment on this exceptional basis. Tuigamala has demonstrated that he has been a truly outstanding rugby union player and is at international standard in rugby league."

Tuigamala, who had considered returning to visit his family in New Zealand this winter, has signed a short-term contract with Wasps and will be available until the first week in January.

"Although I'm focused on Wigan's Premiership final meeting with St Helens at Old Trafford on Sunday, I'm looking forward to linking up with Wasps and rugby union again," he said.

Martin Offiah is determined to overcome a toe injury and make his debut for Bedford against Nottingham on Saturday. He is keen to play for his new club after being forced to miss London Broncos' Super League Premiership play-off game against St Helens last Sunday.

"I'll see how it is later in the week and make a decision then. I'm looking forward to a new challenge at Bedford and I hope I can run them in a lot of tries," Offiah said.

Bedford's Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, and his new player-coach, Paul Turner, both admitted they were not as far forward in their preparation as they would have liked.

"We are in discussion with some second row forwards because we have identified a problem in our line-out," Turner said. "We hope to make an announcement about a new signing later this week."

Sale have parted company with Brian Wilkinson, their chief executive and director of rugby. They have appointed Richard Trickey, the club president, as their new rugby director. He will be assisted by Steve Smith, the former England captain.

A new chief executive will be appointed in a few days. The club would not comment on the reasons behind Wilkinson's departure.

There is also the threat of the Union expelling the 12 clubs if they go their own way but Gareth Davies, Cardiff's chief executive, was adamant that "these are difficult times in the game. It is all about control. We have a product and we want control of that. Why should people make money on our backs?"

"You see it in football where the clubs run the game. They have shown the way ahead. We have got genuine problems and one way to solve those problems is to get together with the English clubs and make some meaningful competitions that are attractive to players and fans. The ball is in the Union's court."

Thousands of cheering New Zealanders lined the streets of Auckland yesterday to welcome home the All Blacks. Supporters of all ages gathered to pay tribute to the first All Black team to beat the Springboks in a series on South African soil. The All Blacks, dubbed "The Invincibles" after their 2-1 series win, were carried by a cavalcade of floats and cars through a sea of black and white banners. In all, New Zealand won three Tests in the Republic, the third being part of the Tri-Nations series involving Australia. Under their new coach, John Hart, they won nine of the 10 tests they played this season.

WRU's night of reconciliation

ROBERT COLE

The Welsh Rugby Union will sit down with its 12 senior clubs tonight in a last ditched effort to stop the national game being ripped apart.

The First Division clubs are already recommending to their members that they back their bid to go it alone and look after their own affairs - principally the money-spinning aspects of competition sponsorship and television deals.

The chairman of First Division Rugby Limited, Peter Thomas, said: "We have a great rugby product to put forward for players and fans alike. So far the Union has stymied that - the WRU has had a chance and failed. We feel that we may need

to look after our own affairs. Each club has budgeted for its own affairs this season but the WRU can't meet the financial fulfilment we require to make the books balance."

"We want to work with the WRU, but we are now a professional body. We put forward plans for an Anglo-Welsh competition and a European tournament on a home and away basis. We want to work with the WRU and not against them, but commercial common sense must prevail."

"You can't run a business while holding out a begging bowl. We meet with the WRU and we need to have clear dialogue with them."

After the clubs, who insist they are not seceding, had made their proposals pub-

lic in the wake of a meeting with their England counterparts at Bristol last Friday, the WRU responded by declaring they would be "surprised and disappointed" at a breakaway that would jeopardise the whole fabric of the game in Wales.

There is also the threat of the Union expelling the 12 clubs if they go their own way but Gareth Davies, Cardiff's chief executive, was adamant that "these are difficult times in the game. It is all about control. We have a product and we want control of that. Why should people make money on our backs?"

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Concrete and tarmac and a charm of its own

BEING THERE

The US Open, about as far as you can get from Wimbledon, is a show well worth the queuing, says David Usborne

There are various ways of getting into the US Open at New York's Flushing Meadow. The best is to have friends in high corporate places with space in one of their boxes in the lower terraces of the stadium, the giant cauldron that is this tournament's less-than-intimate Centre Court. You can write off for tickets by post months in advance and cross your fingers that you might get a couple. Or you can punish yourself with the spur-of-the-moment approach and queue outside the grounds on one of the mornings of play.

This last strategy is risky but not without hope, since the organisers keep 1,000 tickets back for sale on the morning of each day at the ticket booths. But you do have to begin queuing early. On a day like this one, when the skies are a crystal blue and Pete Sampras is due in the stadium, that means turning up at 6am, five and a half hours before the start of play. Rolling up on a No 7 subway train from Manhattan - plastered for the two weeks of the Open with a cutesy Nike campaign featuring funny tennis remarks by John McEnroe - at a little after 10 o'clock will not do.

Had I known, of course, I would have surrendered to the first scalper who approached me with the offer of a \$25 stadium ticket for \$75. But why subsidise their sleazy dealings, I reason, happily convinced that the line snaking before me will soon be moving? I start to worry when after the first hour of standing there, the skin on my forehead blistering in the sun, my new-found queuing acquaintance, Jennifer from Northern Ireland via Florida, cracks and dispatches her husband to the scalpers. "Let's go watch some tennis," he quips annoyingly on his return, barking Jennifer from the line.

Unbelievably, it is at the very instant that I reach the ticket booths, two hours after I started, that the announcement is made. "There are no more tickets available for today. Please try again tomorrow. Thank you for visiting the US Open at Flushing Meadow." Slowly the disappointed throngs begin to thin, encouraged by the security guy with the bull-horn. He turns out to be a real actor. "There are NO MORE TICKETS. Nothing, zilch, nada, squat." I and a few hardy optimists refuse to budge. "You folks," says our bull-horn friend, "are the ones in Las Vegas who will never leave the table." Yup.

I am adopted by Peg, Paula and Fay, three fifty-something golden girls from Manhattan, who on this day seem to have mislaid the corporate and famous-people invites they claim they usually have. They flirt with me, because I am before them and if four tickets should, by some miracle, suddenly come up, they want us to be a cosy group. They flirt even more fiercely with the boy who is still sitting by his computer at the ticket window in front of us. Finally, at 1.09pm, he beckons us. YES - someone has cancelled and there are four tickets for grounds admis-



Enthusiasm inside and outside the gates at Flushing Meadow: securing a ticket is a matter of patience, guile or money

Photographs: Justin Sutcliffe

sion only, for \$20 each. We snatch them. Flushing Meadow. After a less than one-second pause at the security table and a warm goodbye to the golden girls, I pass through the gates and stop to contemplate my achievement as well as the surroundings. I had known not to expect a New York equivalent of Wimbledon, with champagne, Virginia creeper and strawberries, but the brutality of where I find myself is still a shock. For years, I had the notion that Flushing Meadow was some posh resort place in Florida or perhaps South Carolina. Instead, it is an entirely charmless complex of concrete and tarmac, its bleakness barely relieved by the blue and white concessions selling hats and ice-creams. To satisfy my thirst, I must queue again for a \$4 bottle of Evian. Worse, I discover that during my endurance test outside, I missed Tim Henman winning his second-round match on one of the outer courts.

The US Tennis Association is trying to improve the Flushing venue. A new, more modern centre court has already risen alongside the existing stadium ready for inauguration next year. Worryingly, though, it will rise even higher than the stadium, which can seat 20,000, and increase capacity for the biggest matches to 23,000. Nothing can be done to erase the less-than-pastoral setting of the Meadow, however.

It is hemmed in on all sides by expressways and noisy railway lines. At least the aircraft noise is kept down by an agreement between the USTA and New York, which demands that aircraft from nearby Kennedy and La Guardia airports are diverted from the air above for the duration of the tournament. (Too many violations of this and the city is fined.)

I head for the grandstand, the No 2 court to which I am entitled entry with my general ticket. (The stadium is, theoretically, out of bounds.) Tucked on to the side of the stadium, the grandstand shares the same

Just when you want to catch up with the score, commercials like 'Tampax is Trust' flash across the board

bowels, a foul-aided intestine of breeze-block corridors, jammed with concession stalls. On the occasional television monitor that shows the progress of whatever match you are missing, a special message flashes. It is about the only mirthful thing I see all day: "Due to the Weather Conditions We advise you to Seek Shade and Drink Plenty of Fluids." Have the organisers been out into the grandstand or the stadium, I wonder? Shade comes courtesy of clouds only.

On the grandstand benches, I at last get my first glimpse of tennis: Helena Sukova versus Conchita Martinez. I am certain that the super-tall Sukova, whose movements are those of a nervous racehorse until the moment she pauses to meet the ball when she is all slow-motion

grace, is going to be the winner here. So, of course, in three straight sets, she loses. I leave disappointed, wondering what it is like inside the stadium next door and irritated by the commercials that keep flashing across the scoreboards between games, just when you want to catch up with where the match stands. "Tampax is Trust" hardly helps.

It is time for the walk-in-as-if-you-own-the-place stratagem. Looking purposeful,



I bolt into a stadium entranceway and head to the top of the terraces. Easy as pie. Soon I am the defender of surely the best spot at the whole Open - the uppermost row of the stadium's east side that offers an unobstructed if somewhat distant view of the stadium court itself (binoculars definitely recommended) as well as a remarkable bird's-eye panorama of the grandstand court behind and below. This means I can watch two matches simultaneously. Straight beneath me - I am literally suspended above the net - Gabriela Sabatini is bravely trying to repel the deep and powerful shots of Asa Carlsson, while on the stadium court, the No 1 seed, Sampras, is sinking into serious trouble against the younger star from the Czech Republic, Jiri Novak.

So, I admit, I start to have fun. It is only the will of the grandstand crowd that carries

Sabatini through the second set, to tie with Carlsson who had taken the first. The anguish is palpable, even up here in the gods, when she produces two awful service games in the third and finally surrenders the match. It is the big upset of the day.

"I know this doesn't have the charm or the beauty of Wimbledon," ventures Molly Winder, a Londoner on the bench next to me, who was at the English championship this year. "But there is something about the energy and excitement of being here. People are always exchanging opin-

ions and comments, whereas at Wimbledon it is so much more low key."

I turn my attention back to the stadium which by now is nearly full. Even the old lady in the wide-brimmed hat in what must be the New York equivalent of the Royal Box has shaken herself into consciousness.

Sampras has just lost the fourth set against Novak, making it two sets all and the spectre of another upset is suddenly looming. It is 2-1 Novak, with Sampras getting ready to serve, when the crowd suddenly explodes into applause for no

The crowd explodes into applause for no apparent reason. The stadium is making it plain whom it supports

apparent reason. The stadium is making it plain whom it supports. A black woman behind me - one of the very few black faces in spite of our being in Queens - is screaming over and over: "C'mon Petey, this is the Grand Slam."

An hour later and Novak has been thrillingly overcome and all my frustrations of earlier in the day are forgotten. "That's the wonderful thing about tennis," a father explains to his young daughter as we file out from the terraces. "You never know if the matches are going to be boring, or incredibly exciting like that one."

She looks at him doubtfully, but I have to agree. It is time, though, to get back to John McEnroe and the No 7 to the Manhattan dusk.

Authorities must consider game at all levels

From Mr N Hynes
There is considerable anger here in Ireland at the Rugby Football Union's decision to "go it alone". Many of us have played at all levels against counterparts in England.

I played as a schoolboy in 1973 against St George's, Weybridge, and played my last match in September 1995 as a guest for Old Reigiansians. We regularly host club sides from England and they enjoy the camaraderie of mingling with people who share their love of rugby.

The counter-measures being considered would preclude contact at all levels. Who will the English schoolboys play? It would be ludicrous to suggest touring every year at that level. The feeder system that has been nurtured over the last 15 years will be destroyed.

We enjoy the conviviality of post-match celebrations. Do not split with the RFU, I say to English clubs, give Mr Richardson a brain. **NIAL HYNES**
Dublin

From Tetteh Turkson
Having read David Llewellyn's report on the imminent rugby union season in today's *Independent* (28 August), I am in agreement with much of what he has said. However, to suggest that association football shows money cannot buy success is surely naive. Although Blackburn may be in the doldrums, we know that a few flashes of Jack Walker's newly replenished chequebook will put them once again in a position to win trophies. Football shows us that those clubs with financial back-up will consistently outperform gutsy teams, even with proud traditions.

However, football has shown money is not the only thing. Teams cannot buy history, tradition and a desire in players.

On the playing front, this rugby union season is no less exciting and

SPORTING LETTERS

novel. The key to transfers seems to me to be to retain young players with potential and to consolidate these with one or two (or more if you can afford them) big signings. Thus Harlequins may live to regret the loss of Will Greenwood and Simon Mitchell, both of whom have big futures, to major rivals. Saracens have bought themselves a real chance of honours with Lynagh and Sella, the best in the world in their respective positions at their peak.

I see Northampton as also having a good chance of being just behind "the gang of four". They have not yet been major players in the transfer market, but already have great quality in all areas. Add this to the team spirit gained from relegation and the best coach in the northern hemi-

sphere and you have a potent combination.

They only lack the depth of talent of "the gang of four", but should be able to overcome most of the rest. Remember, also, how comprehensively they beat even London Irish last season in National League Two and how close they were to Bath in the Pilkington Cup. With perhaps one or two signings, they might challenge the might of union's top teams of the decade. **TETTEH TURKSON**
London SE5

From Mr D Nicol
I am writing to express my concern about possible preferential treatment by the Test and County Cricket Board towards certain countries when allocating tours to England.

First, how do South Africa justify a whole summer in 1998 when Pakistan, a far better side, are only given three Tests this year?

Second, why does the TCCB have to plan so far in advance when other countries are quite able to arrange tours for visiting sides at short no-

tice? Examples of this are the announcement last week of a Sri Lanka tour to New Zealand next March, only six months from now. Also the hurried way in which South Africa were admitted to the 1992 World Cup in Australia. Surely Sri Lanka should be given a three-Test tour and 1998 would be an ideal time to do this, giving South Africa three Tests as well.

I am sure the still all-white South African team would agree to this. Alternatively, next year when Australia are here, invite Sri Lanka over for a mid-summer triangular one-day tournament. It is time the TCCB were far less rigid in their planning and it is time that the most exciting cricketing nations were invited here. **D NICOL**
Lower Kingswood, Surrey

Letters should be marked "For publication" and contain daytime and evening telephone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be edited for reasons of space.

SPORTING VERNACULAR

No 12 FOUL

"Owl Foul!" we would cry in our young sporting days, clattering to the ground as the playground tough jabbed his boot between our ankles. Growing older we learned other, more satisfying words which could be spluttered through clenched teeth as we collided with the turf. We also learned that our parents and teachers preferred it when we just said "foul".

It turns out that maybe the teachers were right. The first dictionary definition of foul is "grossly offensive to the senses... loathsomeness; primarily with reference to the odour or appearance indicative of putridity or corruption". Which unlike our later expletives ("Course slang... Copulate") sums up the dastardly deed very well.

Like many other words, "foul" seems to have entered the sporting vernacular because it is brutally straightforward; not quite swearing, but still pretty strong stuff. Used adjacently, foul was often associated with hell. "Wykked folk shall fall down into hell that foule doggon," warned a metrical homily of the 14th century. Football still re-

calls the association - to say a player "has the devil in him", for example, is normally a euphemistic way of putting: "He is so desperate to score he fouls all the time".

One can also measure the gentility of sports by what they take to be foul play. A foul blow in boxing means that you have punched the wrong bit of your opponent. A foul in football usually means you have deliberately come into contact with another player. The more dignified world of snooker counts a foul as hitting the wrong ball or even missing the right one. Cricket does not use the word at all.

Thus the most traditionally sporting of sports have no specialised vocabulary to describe the physical or verbal clobbering of participants. This is a shame, for it leaves the subject of an offence deprived of both dignity and vernacular. In such a situation, one may either attempt to reclaim the dignity of the game with a discreet silence, or make a grab for the first piece of vernacular which springs to mind ("Owl ****").

Ben Summers

4 the cricket pages

NatWest Trophy Final: Essex and Lancashire meet at Lord's on Saturday

Yorkshire pair come face to face

Michael Austin spoke to **Glen Chapple** whose talent with seam has helped him, at 22, to his third Lord's final

Already, Glen Chapple is his own man. Fresh-faced and freckled, maybe, and perhaps lacking the brashness of a young Ian Botham, who took on the world and won. But, at 22, the Lancashire seam bowler is just three days away from his third Lord's final, in the NatWest Trophy against Essex.

Chapple has studious, smouldering thoughts and "talks" a good game, as well as turning theory into practice - the triple legacy of playing since the age of six, an upbringing in the Lancashire leagues and being an eager listener to those such as the Pakistan captain Wasim Akram in the Old Trafford dressing-room.

Going back to Lord's, he believes, is the hard part, or rather travelling to the ground. Chapple said: "The journey there on match-morning is the most nervous time. Once I'm changed, the tension goes and I enjoy it. The best bit of my two Benson & Hedges finals was actually being on the field when we won."

Lancashire beat both Kent and Northamptonshire, with Chapple being preferred, somewhat controversially, to the Zimbabwean overseas player Steve Elworthy for the second match two months ago. Chapple's own memories are of dismissing both Kent openers, Trevor Ward and David Fulton, cheaply last year, "howling the odd dodgy over" and taking two more wickets last time.

A Yorkshire accent conceals Chapple's Lancashire roots. Born in the Dales town of Skipton, famous for its castle and street market, he has lived in Earby, adjacent to Barnoldswick, renowned for its all-different 12-letter name and mattress industry.

Cricket has still not been a bed of roses, red or white, for Chapple, despite his record 16 games, spanning six "Test" series, for England Under-19 from the age of 17, together with his prominent part in the England A team's 3-0 win in India two winters ago. There was nothing to choose between his excellence and that of his new-ball partner Dominic Cork, since an England graduate.

Phil Neale, the team manager, recalled: "Chapple and Cork were the significant duo. Chapple had an outstanding tour. We lost the toss in every 'Test' on turning wickets but our opening bowlers had 31 wickets between them, compared with their 13. Chapple, who took 19, and Cork, with 12, invariably knocked over two or three early batsmen, which was crucial." Chapple has swiftly developed into a richly promising seam and swing bowler. Lithe and strong, he possesses a winner's temperament but reflects on the Indian tour like someone celebrating a silver wedding anniversary while trying to recall his first date. "It all seems a long time ago," he said. "The pitches were flat and low and we just bowled accurately. My own season after that tour was just average. I lost form, had a few injuries but this summer has been all right. I have not set the world alight, yet not taken any backward steps."



Chapple: nearing 50 first-class wickets this season Photograph: Mike Hewitt / Allsport

"I have already played a lot of cricket for a 22-year-old and even if you win a full Test cap, the learning process goes on. I do not have just one mentor but take advice from a lot of players, including batsmen. Wasim has helped. Paul Allott, too. I am open to ideas but I do sort things out for myself."

Chapple is approaching 50 first-class wickets this summer, including 5 for 99 for The Rest against England A at Chelmsford in April, and 70 wickets in all competitions, an achievement far removed from his formative years as a Lancashire Schools player.

Educated at West Craven

High School and Nelson & Colne College, he took tentative steps in the Ribblesdale League as an early first-teamer at the age of 15, had a season with Kearsley in the Bolton League, made his Lancashire Second XI debut at Canterbury when 16 and was in the first team two years later.

Chapple, a six-handicap golfer, already has four cricket tours in six winters behind him, two to India, and others to New Zealand and Pakistan, together with 58 first-class games, 160 wickets and a maiden century against Glamorgan at Old Trafford three years ago. The pillaged 100 from 27 balls in an

innings was tartly described by one cricket annual as "in contrived circumstances". His highest authentic score is 58 against Durham last year.

Whatever Saturday and the future holds for Chapple, England remains within his sights. "Having said I am happy with my form, I have just not done enough to reach Test level. I will just keep trying and thinking about my game." While doing so, Chapple will ponder on the motto of his native town, also the birthplace of the Leicestershire captain James Whitaker. It reads: "Industria et Spe." In translation: "Labour and Hope."

Jon Culley finds **Paul Grayson** in confident mood after his move south to Essex has seen a return to form, and runs

"I'm Essex through and through," Paul Grayson says, as if to emphasise his professional commitment, in the way sportsmen do. There is nothing odd in the statement at all, except that it is delivered in an accent rather closer to Darren Gough than Graham Gooch. Grayson, 25 last March, is a Yorkshireman and in his heart would probably sooner be sporting a white rose on his cap against the red of Lancashire in Saturday's NatWest Trophy final. Instead, following his winter move to Chelmsford, he will arrive at Lord's wearing the three seaxes of the southern county.

There are not too many others in the Essex dressing-room whose vowels come out like his. The closest, ironically, belong to Ronnie Irani, the exiled Lancastrian. But in no way does Grayson feel uncomfortable with his new allegiance. "I'd always wanted to play cricket for Yorkshire but I had become pretty unhappy with the way things were and coming here has worked out really well for me," he said. "And even though it is Lancashire we meet on Saturday, I'll be trying to win for Essex, not Yorkshire."

His happy days at Headingley began to go sour, oddly, in the wake of his best year, when he had seemed to be developing into a useful batsman, with a place in Yorkshire's middle-order there for the taking.

"When Richie Richardson went home suffering from fatigue in 1994, I'd batted at No 4 and made runs," he said. "It was my best season and I thought I had done well enough to secure my place in the team. I was under the impression the club were satisfied and it looked as though they would take on a bowler as the overseas player for 1995. But then things changed and they went back to looking for a batter. Michael Bevan came and I found myself dropping down to No 7 again. To make matters worse, after three or four bad games I was left out of the team."

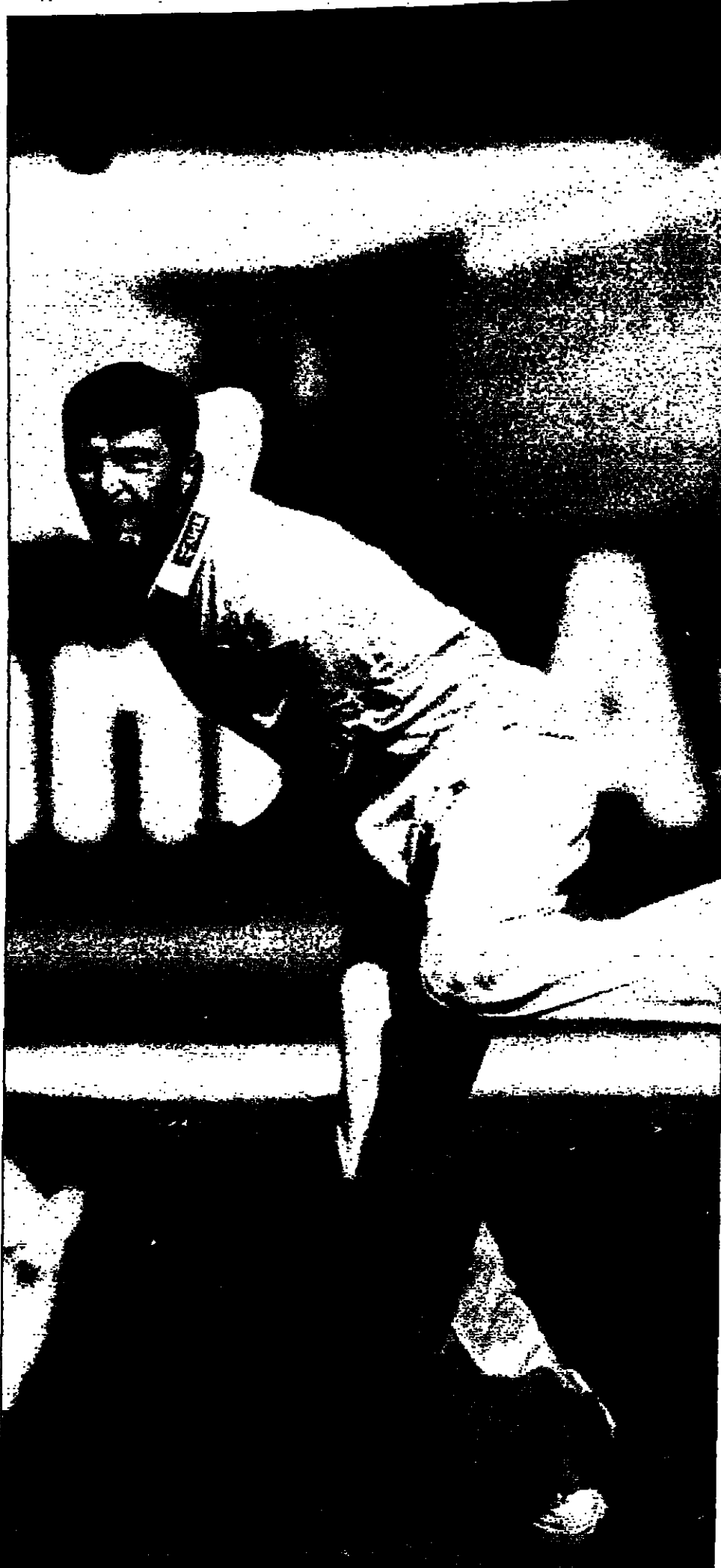
Soon, the positive way in which the previous summer had ended, his maiden century and the run of scores that had taken him past 1,000 for the season, seemed to be a fading memory. He went to the captain to confess his disillusionment.

"Although I was still getting games in the Sunday League and the NatWest," he said, "I wanted to play in the Championship. But they did not seem to have much confidence in me."

"I told Martyn Moxon I was pretty unhappy. He said he did not want me to leave but that he respected how I felt and told me he would talk to the committee. Happily, they understood my situation and did not contest my move."

He was delighted when word of his unrest caused Essex to take an interest, even more when they offered him a three-year contract. From their point of view, Grayson represented another opportunity to turn one county's reject into their valuable asset.

Already they have reaped a dividend. With two more first-class centuries to his name, Grayson is averaging in the 40s



Grayson: rewarding Essex's faith in his ability Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

and closing on another 1,000-run season. "People ask me how Essex get the best out of people and I tell them that in my case they have given me a lot of confidence by believing in me," he said. "When you go out you feel you have their complete backing, which was not the case at Yorkshire." Indeed, with Darren Robinson out with a broken finger, they may well demonstrate their faith by asking him to open on Saturday.

But if the words of encouragement in the dressing-room come with an alien twang, support from elsewhere will sound more like home. Friends and family from Bedale, where he

grew up, and Bradford, where he lives, will be at Lord's in numbers, although with one notable absentee in his elder brother, Simon, who is due to be playing Premiership football with Leicester City instead.

"My father was the PE teacher at the school we went to and we grew up playing sports together," he said. "We'd nag my dad to unlock the sports hall for us on Sunday afternoons even. Simon played cricket for Yorkshire Schools and I was offered an apprenticeship at Middlesbrough, so we both could have taken up the other's career. In the end, each of us did what we wanted most."

"We've always been close and in a way our lives have followed a similar path in that we have both had to leave Yorkshire to develop our careers. He had ambitions with Leeds and it was a disappointment to him when he did not fit in with Howard Wilkinson's plans."

"But his career has taken off at Leicester and I'd like to think mine will with Essex. I feel really at home there. I've been in rented accommodation this year while my wife has stayed on in Bradford but we have a baby on the way and we'll be looking to move down to Chelmsford as a family." An Essex man is born...

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A ban on overseas players? Just remember that first ball Shane Warne bowled Gattling - and Gattling's face

The race to sign Waqar Younis (won by Glamorgan) seems to confirm the powerful position of the overseas player in our domestic cricket season. Several counties were queuing up to woo the prized reverse swinger, and no wonder - he's a man you'd rather have with you than against you. Mushtaq Ahmed has emerged from the mayhem he caused in the Test series to confirm that he, too, is anxious to play for Somerset next season, and is hoping to bag a hundred wickets or so.

This is good news for county cricket, a game that needs all the help it can get. Just as the sudden appearance of top foreign footballers has injected life and style into our musclebound Premier League, so the presence of the best overseas cricketers has given lustre to an otherwise pooterish competition. You have only to consider the talents that have spent

their summers here in recent years: Brian Lara, Allan Donald, Aravinda de Silva, Carl Hooper, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Ian Bishop, Anil Kumble, Mushtaq Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Sachin Tendulkar, Mark Waugh... it is a long and impressive list.

And it is part of a tradition that goes back a long way. The roll call of great names sounds like a *Who's Who* of international cricket: Gary Sobers, Clive Lloyd, Viv Richards, Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall, Allan Border, Martin Crowe, Richard Hadlee, Imran Khan, Mike Procter, Barry Richards and scores of others. What kind of summers would we have had if these men had not warmed them?

So it is odd that voices should increasingly be raised against the presence of overseas players in our counties. Lancashire

have been leading the argument, proposing that we might do better without them, that they are merely using us as a finishing school to perfect their own talents (entirely ignoring the flip side, which is that we get the chance both to learn from them and to work them out). The recent Actford report actually went so far as to propose a ban on imports. Fortunately, the counties voted it out. But there will be a "moratorium" in 1999, the year of the World Cup, when the world's top players will be unavailable, and there is still plenty of muttering to the effect that the ban should be extended into the next millennium.

Is it just me, or is all this talk absolutely juvenile and beyond belief? Talk about shooting ourselves in the foot. We know from bitter experience how we have fared, in recent years, against West Indian and



ROBERT WINDER

Pakistani bowlers. How on earth do we think we would perform were we not forewarned by meeting them in county games. Just imagine: there'd be a lot of gossip, as the players boarded planes to the Caribbean, about these chaps Marshall and Holding - apparently they were a bit nippy. Our players would insist that they weren't nervous - hell, no. They'd faced Muntun and Iltis

and Goughie, this Ambrose fellow couldn't be worse than that.

Or what if they were heading out for Pakistan, having never faced Wasim, Waqar and Mushtaq Ahmed? Swing bowling? Oh, please... there isn't anything we don't know about swing bowling. We've all taken big hundreds off Sidebottom at Headingley - and you're not trying to tell me that this Waqar something-or-other moves the ball more than Arnie? As for the so-called wrist-spin of Mushtaq Ahmed - well, you just twat it, don't you. Leg spin is help-yourself bowling, we all know that.

There aren't many fields where isolation helps. And the idea that the highly paid overseas stars are keeping promising young England players out of the limelight... well, what are we saying? That we need to make room for the

11th best player in Worcester, or Leicester, or Durham; that the nation's 12th men are the future of the game? The sad truth is that the boot is, if anything, on the other foot. Overseas stars, are, increasingly, turning their back on our shattering assault course of a season. Brian Lara tore up his contract with Warwickshire, Brian McMillan was urged not to join Surrey, and when Warwickshire sounded out Shane Warne they were told politely where to put their offer. There are signs that even the impoverished West Indians, who up to now have needed the work, will soon be less available than once they were.

Far from banning them, we need to devise a domestic cricket structure that will appeal to these players. Indeed, our best chance of international success is to keep putting them through the county hoop. One

season was enough to scramble Lara's self-belief; surely, if we can get our hands on Shane Warne, we could give him some serious injury or other, or at least bore the zip out of his bowling.

Of course it would be appealing, as a spectator, to have the thrill of finally coming up against opponents we had only read about until then. But for our national cricket team it would surely be disastrous. That first ball Shane Warne bowled to Gattling a few years ago, the wonder ball that took out his off stump - remember the look of bemusement on Gattling's face? That image should be pinned to the desk of everyone who thinks overseas players should be excluded. It would swiftly become the emblematic expression of English cricket - startled, confused, disbelieving, and out for the count.

Vindicated Illingworth walks away in dignity

DAVID LLEWELYN

Ray Illingworth was last night fully exonerated after his successful appeal against a £2,000 fine, £500 costs and a reprimand from Lord's over the Devon Malcom affair.

Illingworth, the former England captain and current chairman of selectors, can now step into retirement after a proud career with his dignity restored and plenty of stinging criticism via his solicitor, Michael

Lawrence - for the Test and County Cricket Board.

After a five-hour hearing at Lord's, Illingworth said: "It's been a long hard six months. It is a great relief that the matter is now concluded, we are naturally delighted at the result and feel we have been vindicated. As far as I'm concerned, my name has been cleared. I can go to my villa in Spain and ride off into the Spanish sunset."

The hard-hitting response was left to his lawyer, Lawrence, who accused the TCCB of initially

issuing "wholly misleading statements" and of putting England's chairman of selectors through a trial that "should never have taken place". Lawrence said that Illingworth had never been given "a single word of support" by Board officials.

All that the Illingworth camp had to concede to a five-man Cricket Council appeals panel chaired by Judge Desmond Perrett, QC, was that he had allowed newspaper articles criticising Malcom to appear without the Board's consent.

Lawrence said: "Ray should have insisted on a proper hearing in the first place. There should have been proper evidence from the TCCB and cross-examination of witnesses. Today we had, in effect, a re-hearing and it was a very fair one and perfectly conducted."

Lawrence said that the fundamental plank of Illingworth's appeal was that he had been treated very differently to Malcom, who had not been disciplined by the TCCB, despite breaching his tour contract with

a newspaper attack on Illingworth's treatment of him in South Africa.

Malcom had originally accused Illingworth of racially abusing him, a charge that was later withdrawn. But the damage had been done and Illingworth insisted on a right of reply through a TCCB statement. That did not happen and, in the end, Illingworth decided to go into print on the affair in his book *One-Man Committee* which was serialised in a national newspaper in late May.

Lawrence said: "Ray wanted to make peace with Devon Malcom and offered to meet him on his return from the World Cup. But he was told by the TCCB that it would be sub-judice to their disciplinary hearing with him. That is absolutely untrue. Derbyshire also wanted to hear the other side of the story after Malcom's article, but they were not allowed to at the instigation of the TCCB. But why should Ray have been treated any differently to Malcom? They admitted he was in breach of his contract, but the discipline committee seemed to be frightened to deal with Malcom. It was racism in reverse because you can't treat one man differently to another."

Then, on April 26, a statement on Malcom's treatment was issued by the Lord's press office which the appeal chairman has agreed was wholly misleading. The Board's statement indicated to the public that he had agreed with everything that had been said, and that was

Derbyshire's destiny in own hands

DEREK HODGSON

reports from Taunton
Derbyshire 389-7 v Somerset

The chocolate, amber and light blue flag of Derbyshire was flaunted in a pleasant breeze here as the county's cricketers moved towards their second Championship. This is their last real hurdle and success would leave them with two home matches, against a debilitated Warwickshire and Durham.

The penultimate destination lies in their own hands. A gap of 60 years makes comparison difficult but it is a fair assumption that this side is superior to the heroes of 1936. True, they do not have an England leg-spinner (Tommy Mitchell), but they do have three current, or almost so, Test seammers and in Kim Barnett and Dean Jones, two of the fastest scorers in contemporary cricket.

Just as vital, when it comes to Championships, is support. Andrew Harris, capped yesterday, and Kevin Dean are a promising pair of seamers and the Peakies are also pleased with their new left-arm spinner Glen Roberts, from Yorkshire, who is making his Championship debut.

Jones, preferring to bat, watched with interest as the ball occasionally lifted suddenly at the River End. As the Old Pavilion End is expected to turn, Somerset, for whom this is a vital week with contracts being discussed, will have to play well to survive. Derbyshire started like an express



Surrey's Brendon Julian, who went on to make 117, is dropped by Richard Montgomerie at silly point yesterday.

Photograph: Peter Jay

Hard men rescue Surrey

DAVID LLEWELYN

reports from The Oval
Surrey 378-9 v Northamptonshire

When the going gets tough for Surrey, the toughs get going. In this case the Australian hard nuts, Adam Holloake (he was born in Melbourne but had lived in England long enough to make an impressive international debut for his adopted country at the weekend against Pakistan) and Brendon Julian. Until they came together and fashioned an exhilarating and record-breaking - against Northamptonshire - seventh-wicket partnership of 181 Surrey's dreams of contesting the County Championship had looked in pieces.

Gone was Alec Stewart. Graham Thorpe had departed as had Nadeem Shahid, Chris Lewis and the opening pair of Darren Bicknell and Mark Butcher. But Holloake and Julian went on the attack, raising the tempo. When, after lunch and even before Julian joined him, Holloake hoisted Curtly Ambrose for the first of two wickets off the feared West Indies fast bowler a frisson of anticipation shuddered the crowd.

They were not disappointed either. Ambrose's next over was his last for a while as Holloake, nicknamed Smokey, flared into brilliance and thumped the bowler for 19 runs - three fours in that and his second six. Julian quickly joined in the spirit of the thing and the pair had a party gleefully driving and pulling at will.

Their partnership cruised into three figures in just 22 overs. Tea could distract either man. Holloake reached his fifth first class hundred of the summer and the 10th of his career in 115 balls, having hit 11 other boundaries in addition to the two sixes.

If he went into his shell after that it did not matter. Julian took up the reins and lashed his way towards a hundred. Holloake's fall, bowled by the persevering Tony Penberthy, evinced a groan of disappointment from the crowd, but by then he had handed Surrey three batting bonus points they had not looked like getting.

Shortly after Holloake's departure Julian pushed a single off Penberthy and saluted the crowd's acknowledgement of the second century for Surrey and of his career, it ensured the vital fourth batting bonus point.

As with Holloake, Julian's enjoyable display of batsmanship had occupied less than three hours, but it had helped transform the innings. He hit a six and 14 fours on his way to the mark, falling in the penultimate over of the day for a fine 117.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD			
Derbyshire v Somerset			
Derbyshire	389	7	Wicket
Somerset	100	10	Wicket
Surrey v Northamptonshire			
Surrey	378	9	Wicket
Northamptonshire	100	10	Wicket

Umpires report Lancashire pitch

ROUND-UP

Lancashire have had their pitch reported to the Test and County Cricket Board after 17 wickets fell on the first day of their match against Middlesex.

The umpires, John Holder and George Sharp, declared the Old Trafford strip "poor" after Middlesex were bowled out for 160. Harry Brind, the TCCB's chief inspector of pitches, will investigate this morning.

The wicket was reported two years ago, when Lancashire beat Middlesex after 21 wickets fell before lunch on the second day.

Mike Watkinson took his season's best figures of 5 for 15 for Lancashire. At first, Lancashire had no trouble with the pitch as they eased to 125 for 2 in reply. But Phil Tufnell took two wickets in two balls and finished with 4 for 42 as Lancashire slipped to 175 for 7.

Noon takes hold of the ship

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Trent Bridge
Nottinghamshire 320-9 v Leicestershire

After the early dismissal of Paul Pollard - playing in place of Ashley Metcalfe who, like Chris Cairns, was unfit - Tim Robinson and Graeme Archer threatened a big stand before they were out to successive balls from Phil Simmons with the score 60 for 4. Archer square cut and skied to cover, and Robinson was caught behind trying to run the ball down to third man.

Paul Johnson and Mathew Downman then took root before both were out at 111, within the space of three balls. Johnson was run out, apparently not sensing the danger when Downman called him for a sharp single to cover. Downman then played back to Matthew Brinson and gave the gentlest of catches to midwicket, the ball seeming to hold up on pitching.

Then followed the best stand of the innings, with Chris Tolley and Kevin Evans putting on 117

in 36 overs. Both played some good strokes against bowling which did not always keep to the strictest standards of length and line. Leicestershire missed Alan Mullally, who has hurt a knee, although one hears whisperings of contractual problems.

James Whitaker was surprisingly slow in turning to Adrian Pierson's off-breaks. He came on at 202 for 5 to bowl the 73rd over, and in his third, on the point of tea, Tolley pushed forward and the ball rolled back on to his off-stump. Immediately after the interval, Evans played half-forward to Pierson and was lbw.

It was then the turn of Wayne Noon and Richard Bates, who combined to put on 56 in 15 overs before Bates, driving at Pierson, was caught at slip by Simmons. But Noon stayed at the crease to take Nottinghamshire past 300.

hat first
ig's fac

Essex find warmth in the evening sun

MICHAEL AUSTIN

reports from Edgbaston
Essex 238
Warwickshire 14-3

The critical, survival factor sustained Essex throughout many a long summer in the 1980s, by far the most successful era during their history. A decade on, they remain in the championship hunt through sheer dogged perseverance.

After opting to bat, despite the dampness of an early start, Essex plummeted to 87 for 5.

They rallied through the combined labours of Ronnie Irani and Mark Ilett to poach an improbable batting point. Otherwise, Essex would have been ousted before tea on a pitch assisting seam bowlers operating from the City end. Eight wickets fell through that combination, with swing and irregular bounce suggesting the match will not go the full distance.

Before their defeat by Yorkshire the previous day, Essex had climbed from ninth to joint top with five consecutive wins, only to slip suddenly to fifth in a tight table. Presumably, their

bat-first tactics in this game are geared to avoiding being on the sharp end in the last innings.

They were cheered by help being available for the bowlers throughout the day. When Ilett's first three balls of Warwickshire's innings defeated Nick Knight, Warwickshire's toil was just beginning. Knight shuffled across his stumps to Neil Williams and was leg-before. Andy Moles was dropped at cover, cutting in Williams' next over and caught at the wicket in his fourth.

Ashley Giles, the intended nightwatchman, was plumb leg-

Boon chosen to lead Durham out of their slump

Durham yesterday announced they had signed the former Australian Test batsman David Boon as their captain for next season.

Boon, 35, who is captain of Tasmania, has signed a two-year contract after Geoff Cook, Durham's director of cricket, flew to Australia to clinch the deal.

Boon retired from Test cricket last year after scoring 7,422 runs, including 21 centuries, in 107 Tests at an average of 43. He will take over as captain from Mike Roseberry, who resigned last Saturday. Durham are bottom of both the County Championship and the Sunday League.

Boon, unlike the other candidates Durham considered, such as the Indian captain, Sachin Tendulkar, will be available for the full season. He will replace the West Indian Sherwin Campbell as the county's overseas player.

Lancashire's Nick Speak has been told there is no first-team

future for him at Old Trafford. The 29-year-old batsman still has a year left of his contract and will make a decision about his future at the end of the season.

Speak, who made his debut in 1987, has failed to secure a regular one-day place this season but has missed only four Championship matches. He has scored

more than 7,000 first-class career runs at an average of 39.

Fears that the Sussex left-arm paceman Jason Lewry had suffered a stress fracture of the back have been dispelled and he hopes to return to action against Essex next week. Lewry received the all-clear after a series of scans.

18 6 football

Redknapp broadens East End horizons

When Harry Redknapp had wings and the right touchline at Upton Park was his preserve, the ability to speak a foreign language was not high on the list of priorities for a West Ham player. In those days, talk of an arrival from overseas usually meant the club had crossed the river to make a signing in south London.

Now you have to be a pretty good Englishman to win a place among the exotic names that have given lustre to the transfer activity with which Redknapp, the winger-turned-manager, has kept the East End club prominent in the marketplace over the last 12 months.

Be a Hammers fan and see the world - Bilic, Rieper, Futre, Raducioiu, Dumitrescu and all the rest.

Along with Europe's borders, traditional xenophobic prejudice has been demolished throughout football, and Upton Park, where Alf Garnet once belted out his bigotry, has become an unlikely home for many of the Continent's leading performers. Assuming all are fit, Redknapp could select a side to face Middlesbrough tonight with not one eligible to represent the country where they have chosen to earn their money.

Sometimes the negotiations for a foreign signing are far easier than when another English club is involved. One such example was the free transfer capture of Paulo Futre, possibly the biggest coup of this summer's hectic wheeler-dealing.

As with so many transfers, home or abroad, it is an agent that starts the ball rolling. Mr Fixits, faxes and telephone calls are an unavoidable part of everyday life at a football club and Redknapp admits most of the names end up in the bin.

There is a way of cutting out

Ten years ago, West Ham players came from Barking. Trevor Haylett looks at how parochialism has been turned on its head at Upton Park

the rapacious middleman, however, assuming managers have access to a computer and the know-how to link into the Internet. A Website, *Calcio Mercato* (Football Market) has been created by enthusiasts in Italy and supplies details of players seeking new clubs and clubs seeking new players.

When, towards the end of last season, another middleman telephoned the West Ham training ground with details of Futre and his likely availability, Redknapp knew this was not

speaking to Jim Smith [the Derby manager] and it was suggested that as he was flying into London, I could meet up with him at Heathrow.

Redknapp was not to know it at the time, but the suggestion was crucial to the transfer. London was a big selling point, so was the fact that West Ham were the first to speak with him.

Futre warmed to Redknapp's honesty and good humour and from there it was plain sailing. "You have to feel right about a player, even one on a free

times last season and would have signed him, but his wife didn't want to go to Scotland. He was a player I'd seen many times on the television and I thought he could do well for us. After watching him score for Romania against Spain in the European Championships, I decided to go for him.

Where Futre and Raducioiu sold themselves through their reputations, Slaven Bilic was an unknown commodity. "An agent mentioned he had a player in Germany who had just been voted their best centre-half and who wanted to come over to England.

"He offered me videos of the player, but I said I needed to see him first-hand and suggested he be trained with us during his mid-season break. He was here for three weeks, but it was obvious after his first training session that he would be a valuable asset."

Accommodating the imports into both club and team is not as difficult as might be imagined. It's not always the case - witness the failed gamble on Dutchman Marco Boogers - but, in the main, West Ham have acquired players of substance as well as skill; intelligent individuals who have warmed to their new environment and worked hard to fit in.

"There is no problem with the other players, they can see that the new fellows are good players and that makes them accepted immediately. Nor is the language a problem. Apart from Futre, they all speak English already and he is studying every night to do the same.

"They are all good lads and willingly join in all the different things we do to raise money for charity. It's funny to see Futre on the coach because he takes over the whole show. He's also a bit of a magician off the field and keeps the others amused with a whole repertoire of tricks."

Redknapp could select a side to face Middlesbrough tonight with not one player eligible to represent the country where they have chosen to earn their money

a name he could afford to consign to the wastebasket.

This was a player of high quality, a Portuguese international with service at a host of top clubs, including Real Madrid and Milan, and he could be a valuable acquisition.

"I told the agent at that time that I would be interested if the player could prove his fitness," Redknapp said. "He had been out nearly all last season with a serious knee injury. In the event, Paulo himself suggested a clause in the contract giving the club a way out if he was to break down again."

"The agent told me other clubs were interested - in Japan and Italy - while, in this country, Derby were chasing him hard. He was coming over to

transfer. With Futre, I liked him from the start. He had something about him and I could see why he captained his club at 20 and went on to captain his country. We more or less agreed a deal there and then and later that night he phoned to say he would be signing."

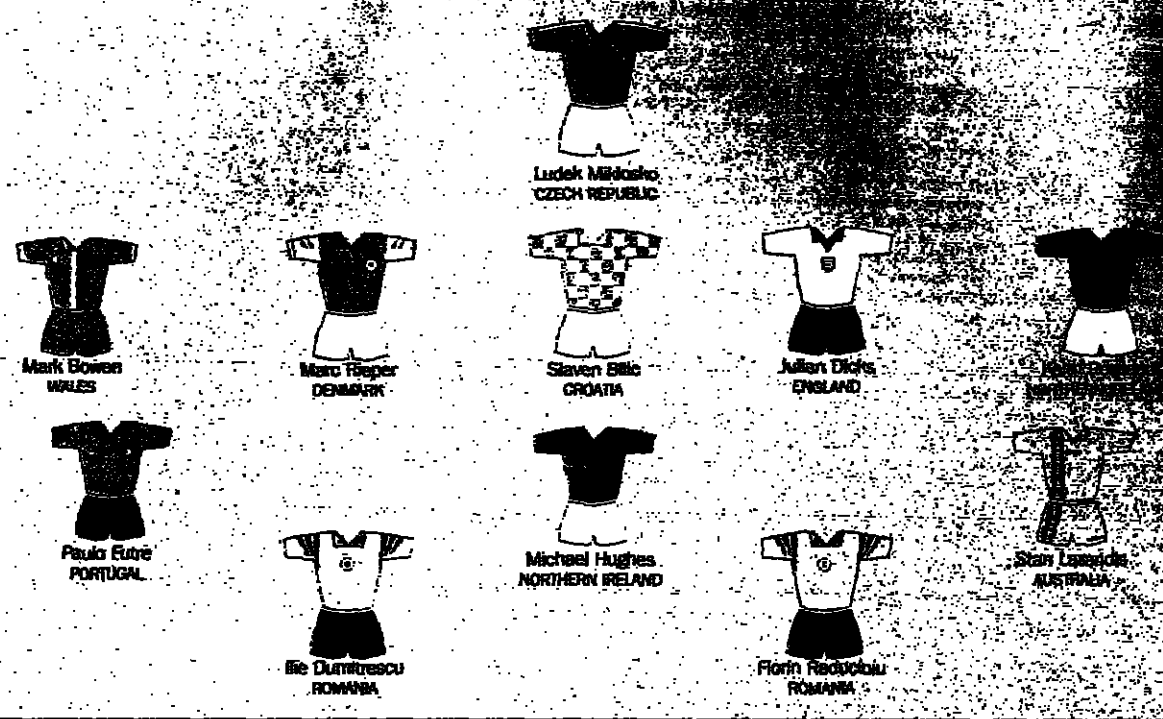
Redknapp considers himself fortunate that the club's directors give him a free hand in the transfer market while retaining the final say regarding finance. They have not been big spenders in the past; the deal that took the Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu from Spanish club Espanol for £2.4m was easily the most they have paid for a player.

"I know Glasgow Rangers had watched him four or five



The international class: (left to right) West Ham's Mark Bowen (Wales), Iain Dowie (Northern Ireland), Slaven Bilic (Croatia), Michael Hughes (Northern Ireland), Stan Lazaridis (Australia), and Paulo Futre (Portugal). Photograph: Adam Scott

WEST HAM: UNITED NATIONS OF EAST LONDON



From Philippe Albert to Tony Yeboah: A complete guide to the

Arsenal

DENNIS BERGKAMP

Striker

Nationality: Dutch

Age: 27

Arrived from: Internazionale

(£7.5m) July 1995

Scored 16 goals in his first

season at Highbury, but also

created many more and was the

key figure in leading the club

into this season's UEFA Cup. Has

been unsettled by the sacking of

Bruce Rioch, but Arsenal will

need him at his best if they are

to push for honours this season.

REMI GARDE

Defender/midfielder

Nationality: French

Age: 30

Arrived from: Strasbourg (free)

August 1995

A little-known former French

international who is yet to make

his Arsenal debut because of

injury. He has a reputation as

an adaptable player, who is

equally comfortable in defence

and midfield. A team-mate at

Strasbourg of Chelsea's central

defender Frank Leboeuf.

GLENN HEDDER

Winger

Nationality: Dutch

Age: 27

Arrived from: Vitesse Arnhem

(£2m) February 1995

A skilful winger who has

struggled to produce his best form

in the Premiership. Disappointed

last season, making only 15

appearances, scoring just one

goal, his first for the club.

PATRICK VIEIRA

Midfielder

Nationality: French

Age: 22

Arrived from: Milan (£3.5m) August

1996

Recommended to Arsenal by

their prospective new manager

Armando Wengler, Vieira is still in

Italy recovering treatment on a

knee injury. Billed as an attack-

ing, creative midfielder.

Aston Villa

MARK BOSNICH

Goalkeeper

Nationality: Australian

Age: 24

Arrived from: Sydney Croatia to

Manchester United (free) February

1992. Played a handful of games and

then returned to Sydney Croatia, be-

fore buying out his contract to join

Villa.

The Australian has established

himself as one of the Premiership's

best goalkeepers. Was a

key factor in helping Villa claim a

European spot this season.

SASA CURCIC

Midfielder

Nationality: Yugoslavian

Age: 24

Arrived from: Partizan Belgrade at

Bolton (£4m) August 1996. Moved

to Villa for £4m last month

Showed last season his array of

skills and ability to take on

players and score spectacular

goals. Already showing why his

manager Brian Little invested so

much for his services.

SAVO MILOSEVIC

Striker

Nationality: Yugoslavian

Age: 23

Arrived from: Partizan Belgrade

(£3.5m) August 1995

Had a disappointing start to his

first season in England, scoring

only 12 league goals. The Serb

striker is capable of better.

FERNANDO NELSON

Defender

Nationality: Portuguese

Age: 24

Arrived from: Sporting Lisbon

(£1.75m) August 1996

Villa signed him ahead of

Tottenham and he has a

reputable reputation, but

yet to grab his share of

attention.

DWIGHT YORKE

Striker

Nationality: Trinidad and Tobago

Age: 24

Arrived from: Signal Hill

(£120,000) December 1989

Voted player of the year for last

season after scoring 28 goals

and is regarded as one of the

top strikers in Britain. Great

close control and can run at

players with pace.

Blackburn Rovers

HEINING BERG

Defender

Nationality: Norwegian

Age: 27

Arrived from: Lillestrom (£400,000)

January 1993

A reliable defender, who played

a prominent role in helping

Rovers clinch the Premiership

title two years ago. Berg is a

tough tackling player who has

made the right back position his

own.

LARS BOHINEN

Midfielder

Nationality: Norwegian

Age: 29

Arrived from: Young Boys to

Nottingham Forest (£450,000)

November 1993. Transferred to

Blackburn for £1.5m last October.

An attacking midfielder player

who loves to get into goal-

scoring opportunities. Has still

to find the form that made

him such a great player at

Forest.

YORGOS DONIS

Winger

Nationality: Greek

Age: 26

Arrived from: Panathinaikos (free)

July 1996

Regarded as one of the fastest

players in the world. Has the

ability to beat full-backs with his

pace and deliver quality cross-

es, but still has a lot to prove

over here.

NIKLAS GUDMUNDSSON

Striker

Nationality: Swedish

Age: 24

Arrived from: Halmstad (£1m)

January 1996

Still to make an impact on

the Premiership after starting

only one league match last

season.

The five best value imports to English football

Oswaldo Ardiles

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Nationality: Argentine

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Arrived from: Tottenham

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January 1993

A reliable

Foreign body blocking English lifeblood

Erland Johnsen believes the influx of European players is ruining the national game - and he should know. Clive White spoke to him

"All these foreigners coming into the Premiership, it cannot be good for the future of the national team however much the clubs and spectators may benefit from their presence."

No, that's not Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, talking about the threat to his members' livelihood, nor a disgruntled, displaced Premiership footballer. It's Erland Johnsen, the Norwegian representative at the "League of Nations" along the Fulham Road.

A touch hypocritical it might be, but you have to admire Johnsen for his honesty. If he had lost his first-team place at Chelsea to one of the new imports, his point of view would have been entirely understandable. After all, having been here for nearly seven years he is entitled to think of himself as one of us. But Johnsen is first choice at centre-back and the chief threat to his continued selection comes from an Englishman, Michael Duberry.

Johnsen has even had the temerity to voice his reservations about the English game's foreign policy back home in Norway and been criticised for it. "It's difficult for me," he said. "People think I should keep quiet and hope that more of my countrymen can come over to earn a living. It's good for the fans because they can watch some really good players and the clubs will have a better chance of doing well in Europe, but it just makes it even more difficult for young home-grown talent to come through."

"They end up, in some cases, having to move down two divisions because there are foreigners in the First Division now. On the other hand, they can learn technique from the foreigners and how to play the European way, but in the long term I don't think it's good. We'll see in about 10 years time if I'm right."

The prospect of a Norwegian playing football for a top professional Eng-

lish club was once about as likely as an Englishman winning Olympic gold at Nordic skiing. Then Norway beat England 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier in Oslo in 1981, inspiring a memorable piece of dispassionate reporting from one Bjørge Lillelien, a Norwegian commentator. "Are you listening, Maggie Thatcher - your boys took a hell of a beating here tonight," he blurted, beside himself with joy.

English managers began to take notice, although it was still a few years before Erik Thorstvedt joined Tottenham and was asked by the tabloids to don one of those ridiculous Viking helmets for photo purposes. "It was a big thing at the time, that victory," Johnsen recalls. "Norwegian players would take their autograph books with them when they played England and the most important thing was to swap shirts after the game. Things have changed a bit since then."

It was only with the arrival of Thorstvedt and Johnsen that English clubs woke up to the fact that Scandinavians represented excellent

value for money at a time when their own transfer market was spiralling out of control. A well-known Norwegian agent arranged Johnsen's move to Chelsea for £300,000 (although it might just as easily have been to Queen's Park Rangers) when other English clubs were asking at least twice that for players of similar ability. "Most Scandinavians you've had seem to settle in OK," he said. "We know the language and the way of living is much the same."

However, his career at Chelsea hasn't always been a happy one. Under Ian Porterfield, he was ready to pack his bags and return to Norway after playing just 14 first-team games in the space of two years. "Being in the reserves for so long I wasn't motivated to go anywhere else," he said. "I don't think clubs over here would have wanted me, not in the Premiership. It's harder for a foreign-



Capturing the youth vote: Erland Johnsen cuts a popular figure at Chelsea's training ground yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

er to stay happy in the reserves because you're away from home, you haven't got your family and friends, although you make new ones. I was ready to swap it all for a free transfer back to Norway."

The appearance of David Webb - albeit briefly - at Stamford Bridge, however, rekindled his career and under Glenn Hoddle and now Ruud Geulit he has become almost a regular fixture in the side. Not so the Norwegian national team, in which

that other Johnsen, Manchester United's Ronny, and Henning Berg are now the first-choice pairing. I'm not too bothered so long as I'm playing for Chelsea. I'm really enjoying myself now and we've got a good side which can only get better," he said.

Johnsen, who is 29, has never been one to fear competition. When he left Moss, his home-town club, to join Bayern Munich, he found himself up against Klaus Augenthaler, Stefan Reuter and Jürgen Kohler. The

young Johnsen thought he should have been first choice, and despite keeping the emerging Kohler out of the team for a while, he eventually lost his place and asked for a move.

Partly because of the ferocity of the competition, Johnsen didn't find the atmosphere as friendly as it is at Chelsea. "The style in Germany didn't suit me as well as it does here, I prefer a more physical game. They played man-to-man marking which I didn't particularly care for. The

Norwegian game is more similar to the English, although it's changed here since I came. Most teams here try to play more football now."

While playing in England always held a fascination for him (his bedroom walls as a boy were plastered with Manchester United posters), money, he admits, was the major attraction. Back in Norway he earned £5,000 the year Moss won the league title and had to supplement his earnings by working as a bank clerk.

Although fearful of the long-term effect England's infatuation with foreigners might have upon its international aspirations, Johnsen has no sympathy for the clubs. "It's of their own choosing," he said. "Of course you can have English players going to the opposite direction, but when you go abroad you have to make sacrifices. If the Englishman doesn't have his steak and kidney pie, he's struggling. But then I suppose you've got everything here now - even the money."

comings and goings of the Premiership's 84 overseas players

ZELJKO KALAC
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Australian
Age: 23
Arrived from: Sydney United (£760,000) August 1995
Has had a disappointing spell at Leicester, making only one league appearance for them and has recently been linked with a move to join his former boss Mark McGhee at Wolves.

KASEY KELLER
Goalkeeper
Nationality: American
Age: 27
Arrived from: Portland University to Millwall (free) February 1995.
Switched to Leicester for £300,000 last month.
Showed at Millwall why he is rated so highly with some outstanding performances. He is the US first choice goalkeeper, and could be a big Premiership success if City survive.

FRANCK ROLLING
Defender
Nationality: French
Age: 28
Arrived from: FC Pau (£100,000) October 1995.
A tough tackling defender who has already made a name for himself at Fulham Street, making 17 league appearances last season.

PATRICK BERGER
Midfielder
Nationality: Czech
Age: 22
Arrived from: Borussia Dortmund (£3.5m) August 1995.
Excellent midfielder who starred for the Czech Republic in the European Championships. Still awaiting his Arsenal debut.

STIG INGE BJØRNHØVE
Defender
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 26
Arrived from: Rosenborg Trondheim (£600,000) December 1992.
Has held down a regular first-team place so far this season and is clearly well thought of by his manager Roy Evans.

ERIC CANTONA
Striker
Nationality: French
Age: 30
Arrived from: Nîmes to Leeds (£300,000) February 1992 after a trial with Sheffield Wednesday.
Joined Manchester United for £1.2m nine months later.
Won his third Championship medal last season after guiding United to a unique double. Scored 19 goals, including a spectacular winner against Liverpool in the FA Cup final.

JORDI CRUYFF
Striker
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 22
Arrived from: Barcelona (£1m) July 1995.
An instant hit at Old Trafford, and clearly one to watch as the season progresses.

RONNY JOHNSEN
Defender
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 28
Arrived from: Besilids (£1.5m) July 1996.
Not the biggest name at United, but has already shown enough composure to prove he will be an important part of Alex Ferguson's squad.

KAREL POBOŘSKÝ
Winger
Nationality: Czech
Age: 26
Arrived from: Slavia Prague (£3.5m) July 1996.
Scored a wonder goal in Euro 96 and is a signing of great promise. Will, however, have to score more regularly to earn a permanent starting place.

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJÆR
Striker
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 23
Arrived from: Molde (£1.5m) July 1995.
He looks 12, but plays with the assurance of a seasoned professional and has the temperament to become another successful import.

PETER SCHMEICHEL
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Danish
Age: 33
Arrived from: Brøndby (£350,000) August 1991.
Has established himself as the best goalkeeper in Europe since joining United, where he wants to end his career.

RAMON VAN DER GOUW
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 26
Arrived from: Vitesse Arnhem (undisclosed) July 1996.
An experienced goalkeeper, signed as cover for Schmeichel.

BRANCO
Defender
Nationality: Brazilian
Age: 34
Arrived from: Internacional (Bra) (free) February 1995.
Clearly past his best, but still a good passer and a key influence on his Brazilian team-mates.

EMERSON
Midfielder
Nationality: Brazilian
Age: 24
Arrived from: Porto (£4m) May 1996.
Rapidly establishing himself as one of the best midfielders in the Premiership. Strong and full of flair, he should be a big hit.

JAN AGGE EIDHOF
Striker
Nationality: Norwegian
Age: 29
Arrived from: Rapid Vienna to Swindon (£200,000) July 1993.
Joined Middlesbrough for £1.3m in March 1995.
His place at Boro is uncertain, but, after a slow start in England, has proved to be a regular goalscorer.

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA
Striker
Nationality: Colombian
Age: 28
Arrived from: Santos (£4.5m) July 1996.
The jury is still out on the young Brazilian who, while never looking substantial, has yet to dominate games as expected.

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Nationality: Colombian
Age: 28
Arrived from: Santos (£4.5m) July 1996.
The jury is still out on the young Brazilian who, while never looking substantial, has yet to dominate games as expected.

MARCO BOGGERS
Striker
Nationality: Dutch
Age: 23
Arrived from: Paris St-Germain (£2.5m) August 1995.
An outstanding first season has been followed by speculation that he may leave the club soon, but has struggled to adjust to life up North.

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Nationality: Danish
Age: 23
Arrived from: Brøndby (£1m) November 1995.
He broke into the team he enjoyed the shortest honeymoon period imaginable. By February, the relationship was on distinctly rocky ground, with a Broth left out of a game against Aston Villa despite nine Leeds players being unavailable. By the season's end, in true Liz Taylor style, the marriage was over and Broth was looking for a total annulment.

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18 racing

Hammond's hopes in the heir About turn as Turner returns to the Club

A notable double hat-trick in two of racing's most competitive areas, training and breeding, is on the cards in the Sprint Cup at Haydock on Saturday. Victory for Miesque's Son would not only give John Hammond three wins from as many runs in the six-furlong Group One contest, but also give the rather unimaginatively named colt's celebrated dam, Miesque, her third top-level winner from her first three foals.

It would also highlight this season's fairly unusual situation in the sprinting ranks, the dominance of speedsters from France. Champion-elect Anabaa brought what had seemed a rather tired division to life with his stunning July Cup victory, but the progressive Miesque's Son, who chased him home in the Prix Maurice de Gheest last month, is a worthy understudy.

Obviously, with a 100 per cent record thus far, Hammond knows what it takes to annex the Haydock race, and rates Miesque's Son as good as his two previous winners, Polar Falcon in 1991 and Cherokee Rose last year. "On paper, he hasn't achieved as much as those two before they went to Haydock,"

Sue Montgomery on how Miesque's Son can continue two fine traditions

François Boutin. One of them was Miesque's Son, a once-raced three-year-old with a formidable family reputation to live up to.

The colt's dam, one of the toughest and most talented mares to look through a bridle, had won no fewer than 10 Group or Grade One races in her glittering career as champion miler of two continents, including back-to-back Breeders'

Cup Miles. She is proving as effective a broodmare as a runner, her first foal, Kingmambo, (by Mr Prospector) took three Group Ones, her second, East Of The Moon, (by Private Act) followed suit. Her fourth, the Woodman filly Moon Is Up, won last week's fifth is a highly regarded two-year-old daughter of Mr Prospector, Monveassee, and in the pipeline are two more by Mr R, a colt-foal and the one she is currently carrying in Kentucky.

It took Miesque's Son (another of the Mr Prospector tribe), some time to develop physically as he suffered muscular problems and he ran only

four times in his first two seasons. He rather spoiled the family record when he got off the mark at Epsom in July, for the race was merely a Group Three and his dam and two older siblings scored exclusively at the highest level.

But he showed further improvement in defeat next time out when he overcame traffic problems to get within a length and a half of Anabaa in that Deauville Group One, and compensation may not be long in coming. "He has had a minor problem after another, which stopped us getting a clear run at him," Hammond said, "which is why it has taken a long time to get his act together. And with no Anabaa at Haydock, we have to be hopeful. But six furlongs is his minimum - we haven't entered him in the [five furlong] Abbsay, so we won't be tempted - and I would fear Lucayan Prince of David Loder's."

Miesque's Son, who will be ridden at Haydock, like Polar Falcon and Cherokee Rose, by Cash Asmusen, has been backed to 2-1 clear favourite since the books on the Sprint Cup opened. History is clearly not to be trifled with.

JOHN COBB

Dr Michael Turner returned to the fold yesterday as the Jockey Club's chief medical adviser averting a crisis in confidence in the Club's commitment to safety standards for jockeys. Turner's disquiet at his employers allowing racing to continue at Southwell, despite his reservations about safety standards in the aftermath of the death of Richard Davis at the track in July, was labelled as a "misunderstanding."

Turner withdrew his threat to resign after detailed discussions at the Jockey Club's headquarters in London and the Jockey Club agreed to retain his services, giving him a "vote of confidence in the way he has carried out his work," according to the Racecourse Steward Robert Waley-Cohen.

The spotlight now falls instead on medical facilities at Southwell. Turner will carry out a personal inspection of the standards of medical provision at the Nottinghamshire track

before racing takes place there on Monday.

It was the Jockey Club's decision to ignore Turner's advice to cancel the course's August Bank Holiday meeting until he had conducted an inspection, that prompted his surprise resignation.

However Waley-Cohen said yesterday that medical cover

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Mighty Phantom
(York 3.10)
NB: Gulfview
(York 4.40)

that day had met Jockey Club regulations, the affair had been a complete "misunderstanding" and that Dr Turner had "over-reacted".

"It was all based on a complete misunderstanding that took a certain amount of time getting to the bottom of and I think he probably over-reacted," Waley-Cohen said.

"He expressed concern about safety at Southwell and as a result we insisted Southwell have

present county ambulance staff [instead of the Ambulink staff that were on duty at the time of Davis's death] on 26 August and received a written assurance from Southwell it would do that."

"I think he wanted to verify that the ambulances were as specified. The ambulance service he requested was supplied precisely to the specifications he requested and is set out in the instructions. Had it not been done so the meeting would have been cancelled."

"I think basically he misunderstood what was happening. We didn't ban him from visiting Southwell. We had a meeting yesterday when it became clear there was an internal misunderstanding and now it has been patched up."

"We feel he has done a very good job over the last four years and we are very happy with the work he has done for us. We think that when he inspects Southwell on Monday he will find everything in order. It will be severely disappointing if he does not."

Haydock Park Sprint Cup			
Horse (Owner)	Goal	Weight	Trainer
Miesque's Son (J Hammond)	7-4	2-4	
Lucayan Prince (J Loder)	8-4	2-4	
Blue Panther (J Loder)	12-8	6-4	
Donnell Dancer (J Calverley)	8-4	6-4	
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Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Haydock, Saturday, 7 September)

2.40 In all races of seven furlongs and above here, these runners descend the inside rail to have a considerable advantage. Richard Quinn looks a significant booking for Righty Ho, but his mount is burdened with a high draw. DISTINCTIVE DREAM, in stall four, can be expected to improve markedly on his Goodwood debut.

3.10: Welcome Parade is a progressive colt but is likely to be at unattractive odds, particularly as he must exit from the widest stall of all.

3.40: A very tricky sprint. OPTIONS OPEN and Double Splendour race sharply after fighting out the finish of a similar race here two weeks ago. The former may again emerge in front despite being 5lb worse off. April The Eighth looks dangerous but on the straight course here last month those drawn low, as he is today, had to race on slower ground.

4.10: Tatika won nicely at Sandown but is another not favoured by the draw. More fortunate is POLAR PROSPECT, who was badly hampered in his latest run.

Godolphin threat to Court's authority

LUKE ARDLEY

Winter proverbially rides in on the tail of the last horse home in the St Leger but autumn, in racing terms, actually arrives with the turn in the going and the breakdown of Flat form-lines which September ushers in.

The September Stakes at Kempton on Saturday has been robbed of its star performer by the setback to Classic Cliche, who would have used this as a pre-Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe target. His absence leaves not so much an Arc prep as a tryout for the Cambridgeshire, with little fear of the more optimistic entries picking up a penalty.

Hailing has shown that the gap between the Cambridgeshire and Group class is not unbridgeable. He took the first leg of the autumn double for John Gosden two seasons ago just a handicap mark of just 93. 2lb lower than Ball Gown has been set this year. But the multiple Group One winner has been transformed by Godolphin. Cezanne, winner of the 1994 Magnat Cup and Irish Champion Stakes for Michael Stoute, was a similar case.

Cezanne, now seven, no longer seems the force he was, but either he or the two remaining Godolphin entries, Kalabo and Wall Street, would be up to taking a trap-py-looking September Stakes. The Dubai operation is becoming harder to pigeonhole: it expands and proves capable of improving and placing horses in the face of exacting competition, compared to its earlier wastage rates.

Peter Chapple Hyam's methods are more fathomable - his horses are fired up first time out and then pitched into pattern company with an optimism that might make Clive Brittain blush.

While the yard sometimes seems incapable of distinguishing between a Rodrigo and a Rambrino, it looks to have a genuine air in Royal Court. But his defeat at York by the St Leger market leaders, Dushyantor and Mons, confirmed that he requires the same give in the ground that brought out the best in his half-brother, Dr Devious.

In the Haydock Park Sprint, also on Saturday, the progressive Rambling Bear looks overpriced at 14-1 with Ladbrokes, granted a sound surface.

RATINGS
September Stakes: 118 Royal Court, 112 Cezanne, 110 Kalabo, 115 Dr Devious, 113 Rambling Bear, 111 Wall Street, 110 Murrilla, 109 Sacrament, 108 Poppy Crown, 99 Ball Gown, 98 Lord Derby, 97 Sheer Daring, 84 Rembrandt, 82 Step Asit, 81 Monogolf Warrior.

Haydock Park Sprint: 117 Hever Golf, 116 Rambling Bear, 115 Miesque's Son, 114 Cherokee Rose, 113 Danahill Dancer, 112 Miesque's Son, 111 Blue Duster, 109 Poppy Crown, 108 Blue Duster, 107 Poppy Crown, 106 Blue Duster, 105 Poppy Crown, 104 Blue Duster, 103 Poppy Crown, 102 Blue Duster, 101 Poppy Crown, 100 Blue Duster, 99 Poppy Crown, 98 Blue Duster, 97 Poppy Crown, 96 Blue Duster, 95 Poppy Crown, 94 Blue Duster, 93 Poppy Crown, 92 Blue Duster, 91 Poppy Crown, 90 Blue Duster, 89 Poppy Crown, 88 Blue Duster, 87 Poppy Crown, 86 Blue Duster, 85 Poppy Crown, 84 Blue Duster, 83 Poppy Crown, 82 Blue Duster, 81 Poppy Crown, 80 Blue Duster, 79 Poppy Crown, 78 Blue Duster, 77 Poppy Crown, 76 Blue Duster, 75 Poppy Crown, 74 Blue Duster, 73 Poppy Crown, 72 Blue Duster, 71 Poppy Crown, 70 Blue Duster, 69 Poppy Crown, 68 Blue Duster, 67 Poppy Crown, 66 Blue Duster, 65 Poppy Crown, 64 Blue Duster, 63 Poppy Crown, 62 Blue Duster, 61 Poppy Crown, 60 Blue Duster, 59 Poppy Crown, 58 Blue Duster, 57 Poppy Crown, 56 Blue Duster, 55 Poppy Crown, 54 Blue Duster, 53 Poppy Crown, 52 Blue Duster, 51 Poppy Crown, 50 Blue Duster, 49 Poppy Crown, 48 Blue Duster, 47 Poppy Crown, 46 Blue Duster, 45 Poppy Crown, 44 Blue Duster, 43 Poppy Crown, 42 Blue Duster, 41 Poppy Crown, 40 Blue Duster, 39 Poppy Crown, 38 Blue Duster, 37 Poppy Crown, 36 Blue Duster, 35 Poppy Crown, 34 Blue Duster, 33 Poppy Crown, 32 Blue Duster, 31 Poppy Crown, 30 Blue Duster, 29 Poppy Crown, 28 Blue Duster, 27 Poppy Crown, 26 Blue Duster, 25 Poppy Crown, 24 Blue Duster, 23 Poppy Crown, 22 Blue Duster, 21 Poppy Crown, 20 Blue Duster, 19 Poppy Crown, 18 Blue Duster, 17 Poppy Crown, 16 Blue Duster, 15 Poppy Crown, 14 Blue Duster, 13 Poppy Crown, 12 Blue Duster, 11 Poppy Crown, 10 Blue Duster, 9 Poppy Crown, 8 Blue Duster, 7 Poppy Crown, 6 Blue Duster, 5 Poppy Crown, 4 Blue Duster, 3 Poppy Crown, 2 Blue Duster, 1 Poppy Crown.

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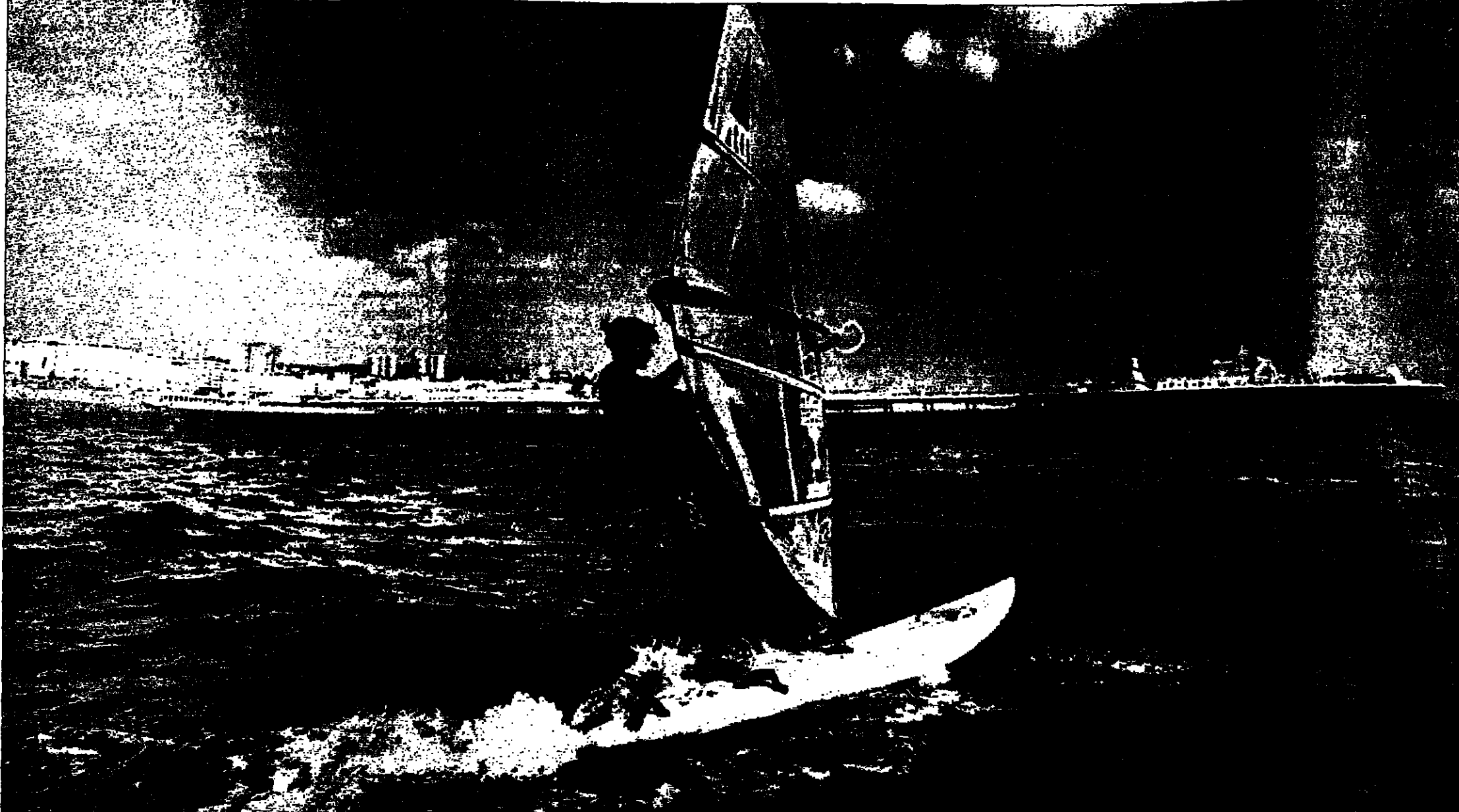
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Hidden Personality
Since then he has removed most of the hair from his head, put rings through his ears and dressed more outlandishly by the year.

Ready to rave on the waves and light up Brighton



Nik Baker, the United Kingdom No 1, tests the waters off Brighton before today's start of the British leg of the Windsurfing World Cup

Photograph: David Ashdown

Farrell picks up the top award

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan's captain, Andy Farrell, who will lead Great Britain on tour this autumn, has earned the top individual award of the season as the Stones Man of Steel. Farrell picked up his award at the annual dinner in Manchester last night, while three representatives of St Helens, Wigan's opponents in the Premiership final this Sunday, also collected accolades.

Bobbie Goulding was voted Fans' Player of the Year, Keiron Cunningham, Young Player of the Year, and Shaun McRae, Coach of the Year, after guiding Saints to a Challenge Cup and Championship double in his first season in charge.

Robbie Paul of the Bradford Bulls is the Stones Super League Player of the Year, based on the votes of his fellow professionals, with Nathan Aspinall of Salford and Hull KR's Papsu, New Guinea scrum-half, Stanley Gene, winning the equivalent award for the First and Second Divisions.

The Bradford hooker, James Lowe, and St Helens' centre, Alan Hunte, have been called up as the first two reinforcements for Great Britain's tour of the southern hemisphere, which begins later this month.

Lowe and Hunte are direct replacements for Lee Jackson and Gary Connolly, both of whom are being prevented from touring by their contracts with the Australian Rugby League.

Drugs storm brews in a teacup

Athletes have been warned to stop drinking tea and coffee around competitions to avoid the risk of being banned for doping. The German athletics federation has revised its recommendations on refreshments after studying the case of a minor athlete who failed a drug test after drinking coffee.

"No tea or coffee should be drunk at all from before the start of a competition to the time when an athlete provides urine for a doping sample," said the federation, who want to discuss the controversial area of sports medicine with the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

The decision to change the advice to athletes was made after the federation studied the case of a long jumper, Astrid Mannes, who tested positive for caffeine at a minor meeting last year. Mannes claimed she drank only two cups of coffee before the event.

Medical checks on the athlete, who is particularly light in weight, showed that high levels of caffeine could appear in her urine after only a small intake of coffee.

Athletics

Kenya's world record holders Nouredine Morceli and Daniel Komen confirmed yesterday they will take part in Monday's track meet at Sarajevo, the first major sports event to take place in the city since the war ended in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Organisers of the Solidarity Meeting for Sarajevo say that Michael Johnson, the 200 and 400 metres world and Olympic champion, also will be among the 120-130 athletes in the rebuilt Velodrome Olympic stadium along with the Olympic high jump champion, Charles Austin.

Baseball

David Cone made a triumphant return from a four-month absence caused by an aneurysm in his right shoulder, pitching seven innings for the New York Yankees in a 5-0 one-hit victory over the Oakland Athletics on Monday. American League games on Monday: Detroit 8 Chicago White Sox 6; Cleveland 6 New York Yankees 5; Minnesota 6 Texas 4; Boston 5 Seattle 4; Houston 1 (20 innings); Colorado 8 Pittsburgh 3; Cincinnati 4 Atlanta 3; San Diego 5 Philadelphia 1.

Boxing

Steve Foster's World Boxing Organisation light-middleweight title fight against the American holder, Ronald Wright, has been called off because Foster has sustained an elbow injury. The rest of the bill will still take place on the same night, 19 September, at the Bowlers Leisure Centre in Manchester, when the headliner is a contest between two British intercontinental super-featherweight champions between Keith-lynn Pether and Dean Phillips of Wales.

Cricket

Aravinda de Silva hit an unbeaten century, his sixth in one-day cricket, to steer Sri Lanka to a comfortable six-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the Singer World Series in Colombo yesterday. The win ensured the World Cup winners finished top of the league standings in the four-nation limited-over tournament, with a maximum six points from three wins, and qualified for Sunday's final. Sri Lanka's victory was their eighth in the tournament, with a maximum six points from three wins, and qualified for Sunday's final. Sri Lanka's victory was their eighth in the tournament, with a maximum six points from three wins, and qualified for Sunday's final.

Football

Claus Lundekvam, a 23-year-old defender from SK Brann, has signed a three-year contract with Southampton after moving from the Norwegian club for £400,000. Chris Holland, Newcastle's England Under-21 midfielder, has joined Birmingham City on a month's loan with a view to a permanent move.

Motorcycling

The former world champion, Tetsuya Harada, is going to ride with the Italian team Aprilia in the 250cc class of the 1997 Championship. The 28-year-old Japanese said that a general agreement had been reached and that a contract would soon be signed. Harada would replace Mick Doohan, who is expected to compete in the 500cc class next year with the newly-formed Benetton team.

Rowing

Oxford have signed Rone Mijnders, the 40-year-old Dutch gold medal-winning coach, in a bid to wrest the Boat Race from Cambridge after four successive defeats. Mijnders has transformed Dutch rowing in his 10 years as national coach, culminating in their men's eight victory at the Atlanta Olympics.

RACING RESULTS

POINTFRACHT

2.45: 1. AYUMI (G) 13-8 fav; 2. Moka 13-15; 3. Snow 13-15; 4. 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THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAYPHILIPS
Let's make things betterFANTASY FOOTBALL
Latest results and your chance to register

Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

Listed below you will find two scores. The Week 3 (Wk 3) column shows all points scored in matches played between Monday 26 August - Sunday 1 September inclusive. The Overall (Ov) column shows the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 1 September.

A league of the top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers will be published weekly after the close of the registration period, when all entries have been received.

If you have not yet registered or if you would like to pick a new team, then it's not too late. See below for details on how to enter and how you could win tickets to the '98 World Cup or qualifying games.

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

HOW TO ENTER

Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

- FORMATION A. 4-4-2**
4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers
FORMATION B. 4-3-3
4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers
FORMATION C. 5-3-2
5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers
FORMATION D. 3-5-2
3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.

Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of 10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.



Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phoneline carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads

directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes.

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

If your player or manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, there will be the chance to update your team in our transfer period, which will be announced soon. Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

Team Selection Form

Name	Code	Value
Goalkeeper		
Defender 1		
Defender 2		
Defender 3		
Defender 4		
Defender 5		
Midfielder 1		
Midfielder 2		
Midfielder 3		
Midfielder 4		
Midfielder 5		
Striker 1		
Striker 2		
Striker 3		
Manager		
PIN No.		Total £

Team Name:

POINT SCORES:

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

Register today, call:

UK 0891-252-244 (tone)

UK 0891-252-234 (pulse)

Republic of Ireland: 1550 131 553

UK calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.
Republic of Ireland calls cost 58p per minute including VAT at all times.
Maximum call length 6.5 minutes.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS	VALUE																								
			Wk3	Ov	(£m)			Wk3	Ov	(£m)			Wk3	Ov	(£m)			Wk3	Ov	(£m)																							
GOALKEEPERS																																											
341	Seaman	ARS	0	11	5.9	453	Unsworth	EVE	0	14	3.0	550	Pearce	WIM	0	0	2.2	686	Clark	NEW	0	2	3.0																				
303	Bornick	AV	0	0	4.0	459	Hortiger	EVE	0	0	2.2	553	Reeves	WIM	0	0	1.8	687	Wan	NOT	0	3	3.4																				
304	Flowers	BLA	0	3	5.2	460	Hinchcliffe	EVE	0	13	1.9	554	Thorn	WIM	0	0	1.8	688	Bart-Williams	NOT	0	3	3.6																				
305	Kharin	CHE	0	15	3.7	461	Johnson	LEE	5	7	2.7	555	Thatcher	WIM	0	1	2.7	689	Stone	NOT	0	1	5.0																				
306	Hatchcock	CHE	0	0	1.5	464	Kelly	LEE	5	7	3.6	MIDFIELDERS										690	Gemmell	NOT	0	1	3.0																
307	Ogrizovic	COV	0	2	2.2	465	Wetherall	LEE	5	7	3.5	600	Merson	ARS	0	3	4.4	694	Taylor	LEE	0	6	1.6	863	Cole	MU	0	0	6.2														
308	Filan	COV	0	0	1.5	466	Dorigo	LEE	0	0	3.2	803	Platt	ARS	0	0	4.8	695	Lizert	LEE	0	2	2.1	864	Floftoft	MID	0	0	3.1														
309	Southall	EVE	0	10	3.0	467	Pemberton	LEE	0	0	1.2	604	Parlour	ARS	0	3	2.4	696	Waddle	SW	0	0	2.7	865	Ravennell	MID	0	15	8.0														
330	Martyn	LEE	5	7	3.3	468	Walsh	LEE	0	6	2.2	605	Heider	ARS	0	1	3.7	697	Blinker	SW	0	8	2.2	866	Barnby	MID	0	3	6.7														
333	James	LIV	0	11	4.7	469	Grayson	LEE	0	7	2.2	606	Hallier	ARS	0	2	1.5	698	Jones	SW	0	0	2.0	867	Boardsley	NEW	0	1	4.4														
335	Poole	LEE	0	0	1.5	470	Whitlow	LEE	0	7	1.2	607	Taylor	AV	0	3	1.9	699	Hyde	SW	0	2	1.8	868	Asprilla	NEW	0	2	7.4														
336	Hoult	DER	0	3	1.6	471	Watts	LEE	0	7	1.6	608	Townsend	AV	0	2	3.1	700	Magilton	SOT	0	3	2.4	869	Ferdinand	NEW	0	3	8.6														
337	Schmeichel	MU	0	6	5.5	474	Babb	LIV	0	11	3.7	609	Draper	AV	0	3	4.1	703	Venison	SOT	0	-1	2.7	870	Saunders	NOT	0	9	5.2														
338	Walsh	MID	0	0	3.0	475	Jones (R)	LIV	0	0	2.7	630	Donis	BLA	0	3	3.0	704	Heaney	SOT	0	7	2.2	871	Roy	NOT	0	0	4.8														
339	Srodeck	NEW	0	6	3.7	476	Wright	LIV	0	10	2.8	633	Wilcox	BLA	0	0	3.7	705	Gray	SUN	0	7	3.0	874	Campbell	NOT	0	14	3.1														
340	Hisp	NEW	0	1	3.7	477	Roddock	LIV	0	0	3.0	634	Ripley	BLA	0	3	3.0	706	Rae	SUN	0	0	2.7	875	Borst	SW	0	8	4.4														
343	Crossley	NOT	0	7	2.7	478	Scales	LIV	0	0	4.4	635	Sherwood	BLA	0	2	3.4	707	Agnew	SUN	0	0	2.0	876	Earl	SW	0	0	5.5														
344	Wright	NOT	0	0	1.3	479	Harkness	LIV	0	0	2.2	636	Filtercroft	BLA	0	2	3.0	708	Anderson	TOT	0	2	6.7	877	Bright	SW	0	0	2.5														
345	Bessant	SOT	0	7	1.8	480	Neville (G)	MU	0	1	3.7	637	Gullitt	CHE	0	0	4.4	709	Fox	TOT	0	4	3.6	878	Le Tissier	SOT	0	5	7.0														
346	Pressman	SW	0	7	2.7	481	Neville (P)	MU	0	7	3.7	638	Di Matteo	CHE	0	7	4.4	730	Howells	TOT	0	5	3.2	879	Shipperley	SOT	0	3	3.7														
347	Coton	SUN	0	11	1.8	484	Irwin	MU	0	11	4.1	639	Wise	CHE	0	1	3.7	731	Sinior	TOT	0	2	3.0	880	Murphy	SOT	0	2	2.2														
348	Walker	TOT	0	11	3.4	485	Pullister	MU	0	7	4.9	640	Newton	CHE	0	0	2.4	734	Williamson	WH	0	3	3.6	881	Kelly	SUN	0	1	2.1														
349	Miklosko	WH	0	3	3.0	486	May	MU	0	7	3.0	643	Pearcock	CHE	0	0	2.1	735	Dummetts	WH	0	1	3.7	884	Stewart	SUN	0	1	2.3														
350	Sullivan	WIM	1	3	1.8	487	Vickers	MID	0	3	2.2	644	Salako	COV	0	3	2.4	736	Hughes	WH	0	7	2.7	885	Sheringham	TOT	0	7	7.4														
																				645	Telfer	COV	0	2	1.8	737	Moncur	WH	0	0	2.7	886	Armstrong	TOT	0	11	5.9						
																				646	Richardson	COV	0	1	2.4	738	Bishop	WH	0	0	3.0	887	Rosenthal	TOT	0	2	2.1						
																				647	McAllister	COV	0	6	3.0	739	Jones	WIM	0	0	2.8	888	Fure	WH	0	5	4.0						
																				648	Jess	COV	0	1	2.2	740	Earle	WIM	1	3	3.1	889	Rapchinski	WH	0	1	5.1						
																				649	Spence	DER	0	7	1.2	741	Arday	WIM	1	3	2.0	890	Dowie	WH	0	2	3.3						
																				650	Akanovic	DER	0	5	2.2	744	Fear	WIM	0	0	2.0	891	Hodgson	WIM	0	2	4.5						
																				653	Van Der Laan	DER	0	1	1.6	STRIKERS										894	Goodman	WIM	1	1	3.2		
																				654	Ebbrell	EVE	0	2	1.9	800	Bergkamp	ARS	0	10	7.0	895	Ekishi	WIM	1	2	2.7						
																				804	Konchukis	EVE	0	6	6.7	803	Whit	ARS	0	7	7.2	MANAGERS						900	Keegan	NEW	0	3	8.0
																				656	Packison	EVE	0	2	1.8	804	Hartson	ARS	0	5	3.7	903	Peggason	MU	0	5	9.0						
																				657	Stuart	EVE	0	3	2.2	806	Yorke	AV	0	0	6.6	904	Evans	LIV	0	5	7.0						
																				658	Grant	EVE	0	3	2.2	807	Johnson	AV	0	16	3.5	905	Ritchie	ARS	0	0	6.0						
																				659	Boyle	LEE	1	10	2.0	808	Joachim	AV	0	7	2.4	906	Royle	EVE	0	5	5.5						
																				660	Wallace	LEE	0	0	1.8	809	Shearer	NEW	0	11	11.1	907	Hartford	BLA	0	0	6.0						
																				661	Palmer	LEE	1	2	3.0	834	Sutton	BLA	0	0	5.7	908	Enescu	TOT	0	1	5.5						
																				664	Barnes	LIV	0	7	3.0	835	Vialli	CHE	0	2	6.5	909	Wilkinson	LEE	3	4	3.5						
																				665	Redknapp	LIV	0	0	5.2	836	Hughes	CHE	0	5	4.4	910	Redknapp	WH	0	4	3.5						
																				666	McAllister	LIV	0	9	5.9	837	Spencer	CHE	0	0	2.5	931	Gullit	CHE	0	0	4.3						
																				667	Thomas	LIV	0	6	3.7	838	Dublin	COV	0	3	4.7	934	Clark	NOT	0	7	4.5						
																				668	McAlister	LIV	0	3	3.0	839	Whelan	COV	0	2	5.2	935	Robson	MID	0	4	3.3						
																				669	Giggs	MU	0	2	7.4	840	Ndlovu	COV	0	0	4.3	936	Reid	SUN	0	2	5.0						
																				670	Bookham	MU	0	10	5.2	843	Gubbiadini	DER	0	3	3.5	937	Souness	SOT	0	5	2.0						
																				673	Kennet	MU	0	4	6.5	844	Ward	DER	0	0	2.5	938	O'Neill	LEE	0	1	2.3						
																				674	Batt	MU	0	5	4.5	845	Stratford	DER	0	9	3.0	939	Smith	DER	0	4	1.8						
																				675	Shurie	LEE	5	7	3.0	846	Ferguson	EVE	0	14	6.7	940	Klinecar	WIM	0	2	2.0						
																				676	Juninho	MID	0	7	5.9	847	Amokachi	EVE	0	0	3.7	943	Atkinson	COV	0	0	2.2						
																				677	Emerson	MID	0	3	4.4	848	Rideout	EVE	0	1	3.0	944	Little	AV	0	1	4.0						
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																				680	Lee	NEW	0	3	3.6	853	Deane	LEE	0	1	3.0	Scores are subject to FA confirmation											
																				683	Batty	NEW	0	7	4.5	854	Collymore	LIV	0	6	8.1												
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The ultimate roller-coaster ride

SO YOU WANT TO...
GO SKYDIVING

By Jason Gee



There was a time when sending someone on a parachute jump was considered exhilarating enough. But in the era of extreme sports, the PR gurus have been called in to make the image that bit more sexy. "Tandem skydive", "accelerated freefall", whatever the name is now, I was keen to take the plunge.

The order came in from the Independent HQ that I was to report to RAF Weston-on-the-Green, in Oxfordshire, at 1500hrs precisely, be pinned to the front of a British Parachute Association instructor with a slightly suspect sense of humour, thrown out of a plane at 12,000 feet, freefall at 125mph, and land on a postage stamp to tell the tale.

In the days before, my editor apologised for giving me what he felt was a dangerous assignment: friends taunted me with urban myths about faulty parachutes and splattered bodies; and my girlfriend insisted that I phoned her as soon as I landed. Everyone around me was willing under the pressure, exaggerating the risks of what is a supremely thrilling, yet entirely safe experience.

The requirements for a tandem jump are simple: three forms need signing (declaring your fitness, an indemnity to the club, and third-party insurance), 20 minutes of training concentrating on equipment and your shape in the air, and some final tips to ensure that nothing takes you by surprise. The whole event is organised with military precision and is made so straightforward that fear ceases to be an appropriate sensation.

The training involves the instructor (in my case the 6ft 3in colossus Dave Luke) explaining that the equipment is fail-safe, with so many back-up parachutes that he appeared to have enough material strapped to his back to carpet a small island. He further settles your nerves by explaining the workings of a pressure meter that would automatically pull the parachute if he was "to fall asleep or something", punctuating the sentence with a maniacal smile.

Once kitted out in the regulation jumpsuit, body harness and a rather ridiculous looking leather skull cap, you are packed tightly into a small, twin-engined, BN Islander. Adrenaline is kept in check as the professionals aboard bark words of encouragement and lighten the mood: "Hey Dave, you stopped taking those pills yet?" "Is that other journalist you took up out of hospital yet?" It was lucky my harness was so tight, otherwise I fear all that military humour would have split my sides. At about 8,000 feet the first of my instructor's top tips came to life. The pressure change causes some people to

suffer problems with flatulence, and the apprentice freefaller next to me was clearly and unpleasantly a sufferer. Getting out of the aircraft seemed a more attractive proposition altogether.

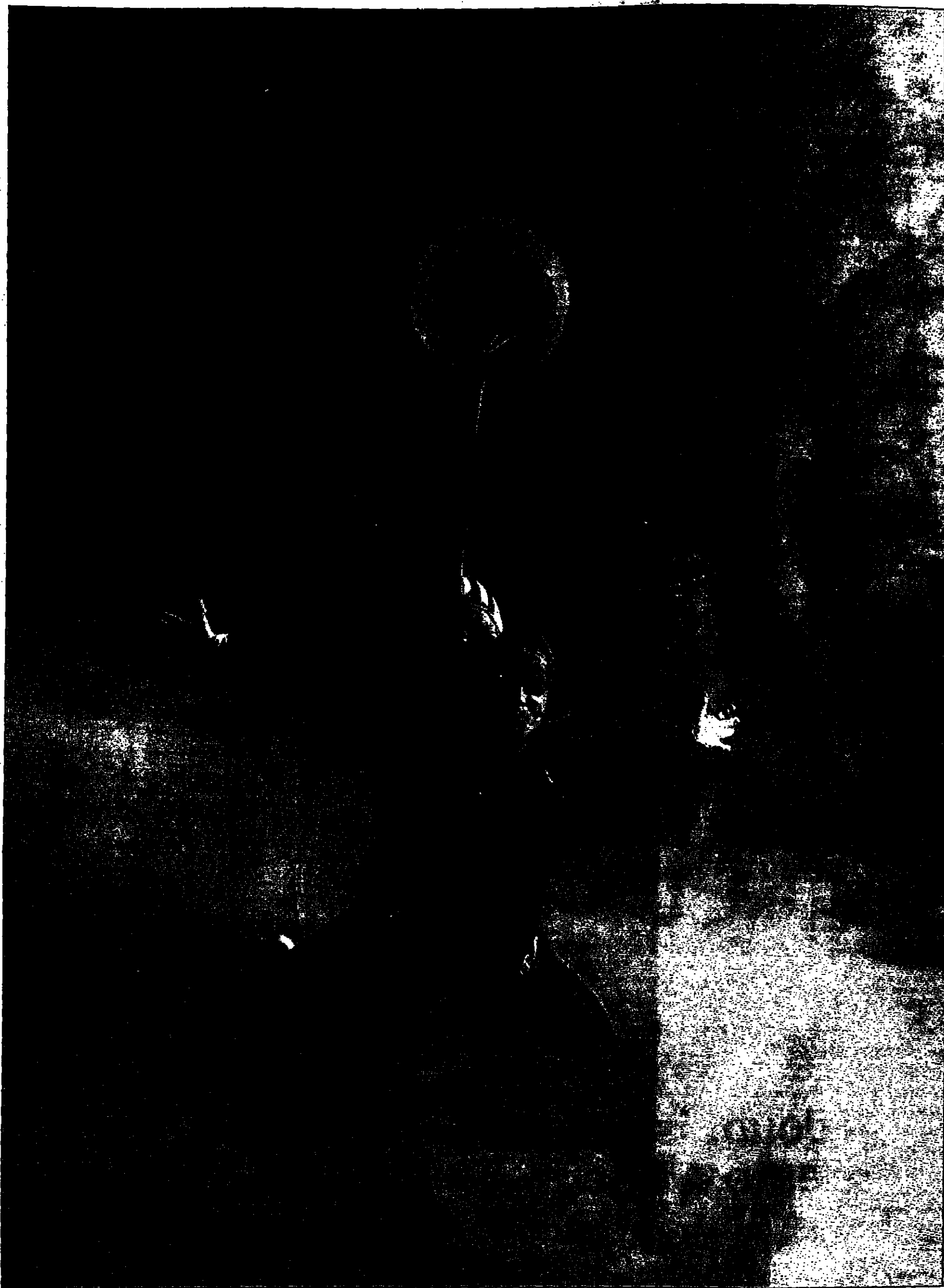
As people begin hurtling out of the door at 12,000 feet, the immensity of what you are doing hits home for a fraction of a second, but before you know it, you are falling head first towards the ground. With a professional on your back, there is no need to worry about technical details, you are free to enjoy the incredible sensation of hurtling down towards the Oxfordshire countryside. It is the ultimate roller-coaster ride: I felt myself screaming excitedly, but the roar of the wind is so loud that you can't hear your own cry. Forty seconds pass in a flash, and when the parachute pops out at about 5,000 feet the first thought is not one of relief but of annoyance that we can't squeeze out a few more seconds.

As the chute opens to break the fall, you are momentarily disorientated by a violent jerk upwards; it instantly reminds of top up number two. When Dave Luke was fitting the body harness on the ground, he was adamant that the leg straps fit snugly into the groin without trapping any part of the anatomy: "We've all done it once and it's not something you ever do a second time," he had said. The eyes water at the mere thought.

The gentle journey down to earth was certainly peaceful and the countryside made a spectacular backdrop, but I couldn't help wondering what it would be like if I were to cut the strings and accelerate our progress towards the ground before engaging one of those ample back-up chutes. "Sky divers use the chutes just to stop them from hitting the ground, but some people really enjoy the tranquillity of floating," Dave Luke said to me after we had landed perfectly about 10 feet from the hut where we had filled out forms an hour before.

Immediately after peeling myself off my companion, I found myself walking around with a ridiculous smile on my face, being kissed by women who had come up to congratulate me on the jump, and shaking the hands of men around me in that kind of surfer-dude thumb grip that all sky-divers seem to use.

The elation wears off a little after a few days, but the dreams of floating through the air are still incredibly vivid. It was a very special experience, that feeling of flying above the clouds with absolutely no fear will live with me for ever. My advice is to organise it for someone as a one-off birthday or Christmas present - it's expensive, but extremely good value, because it is one gift that will never be discarded.



Look, no hands: Jason Gee takes to the air with the instructor Dave Luke firmly strapped to his back, trailing a drogue chute behind them

Photographs: Simon Ward

Chute by chute: a guide to how and where you can jump to it

British Parachute Association
PO Box 100, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 1JY
Tel: 01202 551111
Fax: 01202 551112
Email: info@britishparachute.co.uk
Website: www.britishparachute.co.uk

Donnington Parachute Club
PO Box 100, Donnington, Oxford OX1 1JY
Tel: 01865 722222
Fax: 01865 722223
Email: info@donningtonparachute.co.uk
Website: www.donningtonparachute.co.uk

Gloucestershire Parachute Club
PO Box 100, Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire GL1 1JY
Tel: 01452 551111
Fax: 01452 551112
Email: info@gloucestershireparachute.co.uk
Website: www.gloucestershireparachute.co.uk

Leamington Parachute Club
PO Box 100, Leamington, Warwick CV34 1JY
Tel: 01927 551111
Fax: 01927 551112
Email: info@leamingtonparachute.co.uk
Website: www.leamingtonparachute.co.uk

Northampton Parachute Club
PO Box 100, Northampton, Northampton NN1 1JY
Tel: 01603 551111
Fax: 01603 551112
Email: info@northamptonparachute.co.uk
Website: www.northamptonparachute.co.uk

Reading Parachute Club
PO Box 100, Reading, Reading RG1 1JY
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Website: www.readingparachute.co.uk

Southampton Parachute Club
PO Box 100, Southampton, Southampton SO1 1JY
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Email: info@southamptonparachute.co.uk
Website: www.southamptonparachute.co.uk

Worcestershire Parachute Club
PO Box 100, Worcester, Worcester WR1 1JY
Tel: 01905 551111
Fax: 01905 551112
Email: info@worcestershireparachute.co.uk
Website: www.worcestershireparachute.co.uk

Yorkshire Parachute Club
PO Box 100, Yorkshire, Yorkshire YO1 1JY
Tel: 01904 551111
Fax: 01904 551112
Email: info@yorkshireparachute.co.uk
Website: www.yorkshireparachute.co.uk



12,000 feet and falling: when sky and earth look more vivid than ever before



Final checks to the harness before take-off and the donning of skull caps

Villeneuve poised to capitalise

Derick Allsop
says Williams' split
with Damon Hill
may have handed
the initiative to his
championship rival

Jacques Villeneuve could be excused an extra rush of adrenaline in the wake of the revelation that Damon Hill will be unloaded by Williams-Renault at the end of the season. Nothing personal, you understand, but business is business.

The Williams team-mates are the only remaining contenders for the Formula One World Championship, and although Hill has an apparently comfortable lead of 13 points with only three races remaining, he may not be feeling as secure as he might have.

At the height of summer and his confidence, Hill held a 25-point advantage and he was seemingly content for the newspapers to splash stories of his demands for a substantial pay rise. He radiated self-belief and the conviction that he had arrived as a champion.

Since those heady days, the script has gone somewhat awry for the 35-year-old Englishman. A series of poor starts have undermined his control of the races and his emotions. Suddenly the old flaws were exposed again and he could not resist criticising errors by a team mopping up a record eighth constructors' championship.

There was renewed speculation about his future, that his position for next season might not be safe. Williams was said to have extended their option on the services of Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the German driver long linked with them, and since Villeneuve was already under contract for 1997, it was clear where the threat hung.

All the time, too, Villeneuve was chipping away at his partner's lead. Hill's infamous dark countenance had returned.

Hill can push back the closing walls with victory in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix at Monza. He would become champion if, also, Villeneuve managed no better than fourth place. Hill says he is focused on the championship, and Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's impresario, suggests recent events will have made him drive "harder and better" to achieve his goal.

But another driver takes the view, "Damon will be under so much pressure it could crack him. What's happened to him will be screwing his mind."

Villeneuve, by contrast, will doubtless be even more chirpy than usual. He must feel he has gained a little additional psychological leverage this past week, and will endeavour to exploit it. You sense that psychological pressures would wash over Villeneuve. He is a distinctly different animal to Hill.



Team talk: Jacques Villeneuve (top) discusses tactics for the present season with his Williams-Renault boss, Frank Williams, while Damon Hill (below) talks of the future with Eddie Jordan, head of the Jordan racing team

Others say that he had to be a tough cookie to make his own way in racing, and the world beyond, moving as he did to Japan and pretty well different to the rest of the grand prix drivers.

This 25-year-old French-Canadian, in his first season of Formula One, has sent out a message that says: "I am me. If you don't like it, tough." There are those who suspect his quest to appear natural and individualistic betrays an entirely unnatural and hackneyed show; a yearning for effect and attention.

It could well be that his determination to be his own man, rather than the son of that much loved daredevil Gilles Villeneuve, has driven him to extreme measures. His unwillingness to be drawn into reverent reminiscences of his late father have offended some seasoned observers of the sport.

He has an obsession for denim: jeans surgically restructured, jackets intended for giants, dungarees you can only surmise were purloined from the paint shop. "He certainly doesn't spend his money on clothes," one of his rivals dryly commented. That is precisely

You sense psychological pressures would wash over Villeneuve. He is a distinctly different animal to Hill

the image he wishes to project, of course. It also happens to be quite refreshing in the increasingly regimented world of Formula One, a bit of fun he is patiently prepared to share.

Similarly novel and appreciated is his frankness. There is nothing pretentious or convoluted in his responses to straight

questions. If he makes a mistake, he owns up to it. If the team makes a mistake, he does not turn it into a drama — another area where he has clawed back points from Hill.

None of this, however, has anything to do with racing. So how good is he behind the wheel of a Formula One car? The short answer is that we do not know. Partly because he is in the best Formula One car and partly because he is partnering Hill, and no one can be sure how good he is.

As Eddie Irvine, the Ulsterman partnering Michael Schumacher at Ferrari, recently said: "We'll not know how good Damon is until he gets into a bad car." That may come as soon as next season. Hill is still not highly rated among the other drivers.

"Pretty good, but nothing special" just about sums up the general assessment.

That being the case, it does not say much for Villeneuve. It may well be his debut season after arriving from Indycars, but most of the tracks are new to him and there is no doubt he will be all the better for the experience next year.

But you would have to conclude that since he has been consistently outpaced by Hill, he, too, has to be "nothing special". Certainly not another Schumacher. Many reckon Frentzen was quicker than Schumacher earlier in their careers and, if there is a grain of truth in that, then we should be able to gauge Villeneuve's ability next season when he works alongside the "other" German.

In the meantime, Villeneuve and Hill have a little business to attend to in Italy, and possibly in Portugal and Japan, before the end of this season. Nothing personal, mind.

Five first-season wonders of Formula One

Jacques Villeneuve
Year: 1996
Team: Williams-Renault
Position in debut race: 2nd
Finishes in top six so far: Three
Wins: Two 2nd places: Two 3rd places: One
Finishing position in championship: 1st of 2nd

Like Damon Hill the son of a famous father, Jacques Villeneuve impressed instantly on his F1 debut in Melbourne, leading from pole position until he damaged an oil pipe after sliding over a kerb. With three victories, five second places and two thirds to his credit so far this season, his is without question the most impressive debut year of any driver since the World Championship was inaugurated in 1950, but against that must be balanced the 7,000km of pre-season testing that he undertook and the utterly dominant nature of the Williams-Renault in an era when technology rules.

Emerson Fittipaldi
Year: 1970
Team: Lotus
Position in debut race: 5th
Finishes in top six so far: One win; three 2nd places; one 3rd place; one 5th place
Finishing position in championship: 10th

Fittipaldi had only just graduated to Formula Two in 1970 when the Lotus chief Colin Chapman gave him his Formula One debut in Britain, where he brought an ageing Type 49 to eighth place. He was fourth next time out in Germany, then had leadership of the team thrust upon him when the World Champion-elect Jochen Rindt was killed. When Lotus regrouped for the American GP Fittipaldi swept to a fortunate victory in the highly competitive Lotus 72.

Giancarlo Regazzoni
Year: 1970
Team: Ferrari
Position in debut race: 4th
Finishes in top six so far: One win; three 2nd places; two 4th places
Finishing position in championship: 8th

Blessed with the perfect team for a racing driver, this Swiss charger was very fast in sports cars and Formula Two, but had a wild streak. When Enzo Ferrari gave him a trial at the Dutch GP in 1970, Regazzoni surprised everyone with a restrained drive to fourth place. In the highly competitive car he three times finished second to his team-mate Jackie Stewarts, but the crowning point was a finely judged victory in the tactical sprint race at Monza, to the delight of Ferrari's fans.

Jackie Stewart
Year: 1965
Team: BRM
Position in debut race: 6th
Finishes in top six so far: One win; three 2nd places; one 3rd place; one 5th place
Finishing position in championship: 3rd

When Stewart brought his BRM home sixth on his Grand Prix debut in South Africa in 1965 it was clear that Scotland had another potential champion to challenge the great Jim Clark. As team-mate to Graham Hill, Formula Three graduate Stewart went on to finish second to Clark in Belgium, France and the Netherlands and third at Monaco. Better still, he beat Hill at Monza to win his first of 27 Grands Prix, a record upon his retirement in 1973.

Giancarlo Baghetti
Year of debut: 1961
Team: Ferrari
Position in debut race: 1st
Finishes in top six so far: One win
Finishing position in championship: 5th

After graduating from sports cars to Formula Junior single seaters by 1960, this son of a wealthy Milanese industrialist was signed to drive in F1 for Ferrari for the Italian F1 team in 1961. Baghetti distinguished himself by winning not just his two maiden non-championship races, but his first grand prix, the French, too. This feat has never been matched. It was a victory achieved in the best car after faster team-mates had failed, and thereafter the gentle Italian's career faded. After such a meteoric start, the only way to go was down.

Mauritania
When Mauritania, who had already been eliminated from the 1996 World Cup by Burkina Faso, were knocked out of the African Nations' Cup by Benin last week, their football federation took drastic action. The national team has been dissolved and this season's domestic league championship has been suspended.

"Since we have been eliminated on all fronts and the next commitments are not for another two years, we have good reason to take a break," the federation president, Mohamed Lamine Cheguir, said. Perhaps Scotland should consider something similar the next time they get beaten by the likes of Costa Rica.

Self-doubt is Seldon's greatest enemy

"Bruce Seldon — no one knows him... that's because no one wants to." The implications of Mike Tyson's voice-over to this week-end's heavyweight title fight in Las Vegas is that Seldon, the World Boxing Association champion, is dangerous to know. That may be the case for some, although probably not for one such as Iron Mike. But it would be entirely accurate to state that Seldon is hard to get to know.

The 29-year-old is not blessed with great communication skills. That is not to say he is inarticulate, just that he often chooses not to articulate. Seldon has suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous media coverage and wears his wounds like a badge. Interviews are often refused and he has been called "sensitive to the point of paranoia". He is, at least, complex.

Seldon served a four and a half year jail term for an armed robbery committed as a 16-year-old on the Atlantic City Boardwalk, outside a casino where his name would later appear in lights. "I was trying to decide whether crime was what I wanted to get into, but it wasn't," he said. Indeed, imprisonment turned his life around. While incarcerated he learned to box, winning the New Jersey state prison super-heavyweight title in 1986.

Glyn Leach on the champion with the daunting task of facing Mike Tyson

But the major spur to his rehabilitation and eventual success was the shame he felt in disappointing his mother. One of three children raised in a one-parent family, Seldon bitterly regrets that Joan Graham died before she could see her son become a world champion.

As soon as he got back to New Jersey he went to the cemetery and laid the belt across her grave so she would know what he did, his manager, Rocco DePersia, a New Jersey lawyer, said. Success came late for Seldon, and after several setbacks. He was 28 when he surprisingly stopped Tony Tucker to win the vacant WBA title in April 1995. While his attitude towards the media has softened as his championship reign has unfolded, his distrust is still apparent. Seldon recalls vividly how he was branded a weak-chinned waster after successive stoppages by Oliver McCall and Riddick Bowe in 1991, two of the three losses he has suffered in 36 fights.

"A lot of the print media are locked in a time zone of 1991, when Bruce had those two bad

fight," DePersia said. "Because Bruce hasn't been on TV the public haven't seen the way he has put his career back together."

It was a career that was going off the rails. Seldon was 18-0 as a professional before running into McCall, who used the victory as a springboard to the World Boxing Council championship. At the time, the pair were evenly matched — as party animals, if not as fighters. McCall's excesses are legend, but Seldon was once his equal. At 4am on the day he would fight McCall, Seldon could be found in a night club, having escaped through a window at his training camp. Unsurprisingly, he ran out of gas in the ninth round that evening.

Seldon was devastated by the defeat. McCall was nothing more than a sparring partner in those days and Seldon began to question his own worthiness to compete with top heavyweights. "And that played a major part in the Bowe fight," DePersia said. Bowe destroyed Seldon in one round and the career of the "Atlantic City Express", as Seldon is nicknamed, seemed to have been derailed. Seldon, for all his fabulously muscled physique, lacked the desire and the chin, the media decided.

Where some fighters can shrug off personal problems and self-doubt, Seldon appears



Seldon: Reticent

unable to follow suit. Seldon's other loss, to Tony Tubbs, was his first fight after the death of his long-time trainer, Carmen Graziano. Seldon argues that he was unable to focus under those circumstances.

Today, there appears to be an added maturity in the father of two sons who now lives in Gloucester township, New Jersey. Seldon has built a nine-fight unbeaten run since the defeat by Tubbs, all wins inside the distance. But now he faces by far his greatest test against Tyson, a 25-1 on favourite whose menacing aura can destroy all but the strongest psyches before a punch has been thrown.

DePersia says Seldon will not freeze, citing the WBA champion's prison experiences as evidence. "In a place of bad men, Bruce was one of the baddest," he said. But in the early hours of Sunday morning Seldon will come face to face with "The Baddest Man on the Planet", and his new-found self-belief will be put to the acid test.

The final farewell for troubled Maradona?

Argentina

Diego Maradona, Argentina's footballing tormentor, played what was billed as the last game of his controversial career in Toronto on Monday. The 35-year-old made a guest appearance alongside his brother, Lalo, for Toronto Italia in an exhibition match against an all-star team from the Canadian National Soccer League, and scored the decisive goal — direct from a corner — in a 2-1 win for his brother's club.

A capacity crowd of over 8,000, many of them from the Argentine immigrant community, packed the small Toronto stadium. When Maradona scored, he was engulfed by hundreds of pitch-invading fans who attempted unsuccessfully to carry away their hero. He was subsequently substituted and was on his way out of the stadium before the final whistle.

Maradona spent 10 days last month in a Geneva drug rehabilitation clinic. He went to Switzerland after abruptly leaving his last Argentine club, Boca Juniors, announcing that he wanted to quit drugs once and for all for the sake of his two daughters. His treatment in the clinic included sessions with psychiatrists aimed at reducing his "emotional overburdening". The clinic's director, Arto Van, said that Maradona was not a drug addict but simply cracked "at fatal moments" under the burden of his fame.



AROUND THE WORLD

"This is the first step," the clinic's deputy director, Giovanni Spano, said of Maradona's treatment. "You can't change your life like you can change your socks. A full recovery will take time. He wants to quit — but the possibility of a relapse is always a reality."

Italy

Before Alan Shearer and Barcelona's new boy, Ronaldinho, both overtook him, Gianluigi Lentini, who cost Milan £13m in 1992, was the world's most expensive footballer. He was also one of the world's most rarely-seen players, after he suffered severe head injuries in a near-fatal car crash in 1993 which kept him out of the game for many months.

When he regained his fitness, Lentini found it difficult to break into the team at Milan, where even his huge price tag did not guarantee a first-team place. Now, however, he is trying to relaunch his career at Atlanta, where he will play for a year on loan from Milan.

"I just want to go back to being the good player I was before the accident," the 27-year-old said. Atlanta are coached by Emiliano Mondonico, his former coach at Torino. "Mondonico practically made me," Lentini said. "He gave me the chance to make my mark and I really hope I can keep my promises here."

Mauritania

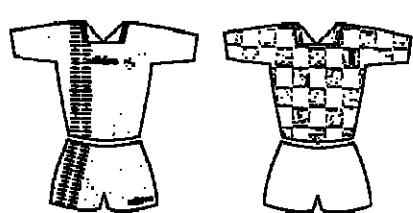
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Rupert McCall

Today's hidden personality

Ranked No 3 in the world, Andre Agassi has won three Grand Slam tennis titles, the Australian, Wimbledon and the US Open and reached four other Grand Slam finals. His major breakthrough came when he beat Goran Ivanisevic in the 1992 final at Wimbledon. Following that success his career hit a slump, but he turned to Brad Gilbert for coaching and his form made a dramatic improvement, culminating in victory at the US Open in 1994. This year he lost in the first round at Wimbledon to Doug Flach, a qualifier, but went on to win the Olympic singles title in Atlanta.



WHEN HARRY MET PAULO, ILIJ, SLAVEN AND STAN

Redknapp broadens West Ham's horizons, Page 6

